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Hospital fears

Patients worried scheme to abolish reception area will leave them struggling to find their way around

BY JORDAN DAY
Email: editorial@elyweekly news.co.uk

THE main reception area at Ely's Princess of Wales Hospital is to be abolished – sparking fears that patients will struggle to find their way around.

Bosses of the Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust have decided to close the hospital's main reception by March 1.

The trust says the move follows a major review of the hospital's services.

But patients are concerned that they and others will struggle to find the department they need if there is nobody there to point them in the right direction.

Marion Bernard, from Littleport, said: "I know myself, and from many other people I speak to, that it is quite hard to find your way around the hospital as it is.

"Every time I have been I've had to ask the receptionists to point me in the right direction.

"If there is going to be no reception there I think patients are really going to struggle.

"Surely there must be other ways to save cash there rather than getting rid of the first facility that people experience?"

The trust insists that signage and appointment cards will be "improved" to help patients find the clinic they are attending.

The trust says the closure of the reception will affect one part-time member of staff, who they are hoping to keep on elsewhere.

Tracey Cooper, assistant director or ambulatory care for the trust, said: "We have carried out a comprehensive review of the main reception facilities at the Princess of Wales Hospital to ensure the most effective use of resources.

"Following the review and in consultation with staff the decision was taken to close the main reception at the hospital by March 1.

"Individual department receptions located at the hospital are to remain open.

"We are improving signage and appointment cards to help visitors find the clinic they are attending.

"This affects one part-time reception staff member, who we are working with to look at redeployment opportunities within the trust."

But Little Downham resident Eddie Holden is also concerned.

He said: "Closing the reception area is a stupid idea. People who enter the hospital go straight to reception to find out where they need to go and to seek advice about a range of things.

"There must be other ways to save money. This is a vital link of the hospital which is just going to be cut without anyone being given a say."

Runners hit the streets

Happy new year: Michelle Gilbert of the Fenland Runners with bagpiper Roy Sloane at the Little Downham New Year's Eve 10k race.

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Picture: Richard Patterson 794089.

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New hope for Barney Bears

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

A PRE-SCHOOL destined for closure could be allowed to remain open – but in new premises.

In October, major social housing provider Sanctuary Housing announced it wanted to close Barney Bears Pre-school in High Barns, Ely.

The cash-strapped company wrote to parents informing them that all the childcare facilities would stop as of March 30 this year "due to economic and business reasons".

The firm also plans to close an after-school club and parent-and-toddler groups which run at The Barns Community Rooms in High Barns and sell the building to a developer.

Parents of more than 100 children who use the facilities on the estate are furious and insist they need to remain open.

The closure of Barney Bears is of particular concern due to the shortage of pre-school places available in the Ely area.

But discussions are now taking place about the future of the pre-school – and one possibility is that it could re-locate to the Larkfield Centre in High Barns.

Although discussions are at an early stage, a spokeswoman for the City of Ely Council confirmed the idea is being discussed with Cambridgeshire County Council, which owns the building.

One father, who did not want to be named, said: "My daughter attends Barney Bears. It's a fantastic little pre-school and the facilities provided at the community rooms are great. We are all outraged by this.

"Sanctuary Housing must be able to find other ways to cut costs instead of getting rid of vital community facilities like what we have here in High Barns.

"It's going to have a devastating effect on a lot of families."

Another mother, whose son attends the after-school club, said: "These community rooms help to keep our children off the streets.

"Sanctuary has run them for more than 15 years and then all of a sudden they just want to stop.

"We won't let them get away with it that easily."

John Grain, a spokesman for The Barns Community Voice, said: "I have heard that all the staff are going to be made redundant when everything's closed.

"The community rooms are a fantastic asset for our estate and are used by people of all ages.

"To see them closed down would be extremely sad."

A spokesman for Cambridgeshire County Council confirmed discussions about the future of Barney Bears Pre-school are "ongoing".

Hunt is on for stack arsonists

POLICE are continuing to hunt for arsonists who set massive straw stacks alight in fires which took more than a week to fully extinguish.

The separate blazes in Mepal and Witcham finally burnt out after many days, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service confirmed.

A spokesman said: "Both incidents have now been concluded."

But police are still urging anyone with any information about the infernos to come forward.

About 32,000 bales, the equivalent of 16,000 tonnes, were set alight in a field off Chatteris Road, Mepal, at 11.30pm on December 13.

Just an hour later, about 100,000 bales, approximately 50,000 tonnes, of straw were set fire to in a field off the A142 at Witcham.

Inferno: flames light up the night sky in Mepal. Picture: Keith Heppell 791421.

Investigations have confirmed that both blazes were started deliberately.

For days, local residents were urged to keep their doors and windows closed to avoid coming into contact with the smoke.

Both fires were so large that they could be seen for miles across the Cambridgeshire countryside.

PC Robin Smith, from the Rural Community Action Team, said: "I would urge anyone with any information about these fires to contact police.

"Stack fires can take up a huge amount of the fire service's time and cost the victim thousands of pounds, as well as pushing up the cost of straw.

"We are working closely with the fire service to combat this type of offending and extra patrols will be put on in the area."

Anyone with any information or who spots suspicious activities around straw stacks should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Call goes out for hundreds of foster carers

MORE than 700 extra foster carers need to be found across the East of England in the next 12 months, a leading charity has warned.

The figures, from the Fostering Network, show the scale of the challenge for fostering services.

Since 2008, the number of children living with foster families in England has increased by 16 per cent, and is continuing to rise.

There is also an ageing foster carer population and about 14 per cent of the workforce retire or leave every year.

Helen Clarke, recruitment and retention expert at the Fostering Network, said: "All children in care need a family they can grow up with who can love them, be ambitious for them and help them achieve their potential.

"For a growing number, foster care is the best option. By becoming a foster carer people can help the children they welcome into their homes to have the best possible opportunity of a positive future, to do well at school and be successful in later life.

"Foster carers come from all walks of life, from teachers to factory workers and builders to nurses."

For more information visit *www.couldyoufoster.org.uk*.

Shop man's terror as robbers strike

TWO balaclava-clad thugs held a shop worker at knifepoint before stealing thousands of pounds from a safe.

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

The terrifying raid happened in Littleport just after 5am on Tuesday.

Two masked men armed with knives burst their way into the McColl's grocery store and post office in Main Street and held the shop's assistant manager at knifepoint.

The assistant manager was assaulted and it is believed he was then tied up while the thieves raided the store's safe. About £6,000 in cash was stolen.

Police say the attackers used a fluorescent yellow newspaper bag to carry the cash – and that they made off on bicycles.

The victim was ordered by his employers not to speak to the *Weekly News* about his ordeal but police have described it as "terrifying" and a major hunt has been launched to find the offenders.

Det Sgt Phill Richardson, investigating, said: "This was a terrifying experience for the victim and I would urge anyone with information to call police.

"In particular we are keen to trace the fluorescent bag that was used to carry the cash, or the bicycles the offenders made off on.

"These may have been discarded and I would ask people to contact us if they find them in the area.

"I would also like to speak to anyone who saw people hanging around the back of the store in recent weeks, or who was in the area at about 5am.

"A car was seen pulling up outside the store at about 5am to drop someone off.

"We are keen to speak to the driver or the person who was dropped off as they may have vital information to assist the investigation."

The victim was taken to hospital for treatment following his ordeal, a police spokesman confirmed.

The offenders were both white, muscular and wore balaclavas and dark clothing. One was about 6ft 3ins, the other 5ft 11ins.

The attack is the third armed raid to happen in Cambridgeshire in recent weeks.

On December 8, two balaclava-clad men wielding a sword and a crowbar tried to raid the post office in nearby Mepal.

The post office's owner, Gurdip Singh Jatana, managed to fight the attackers off without them stealing anything from his store.

Just three days earlier, three masked men wielding an axe and a crowbar robbed a post office in Bar Hill library – attacking a librarian and a postal worker.

A Post Office spokeswoman said: "The people who run our post office branches provide important services to local communities.

"Any robbery or attempted robbery is not only traumatic for those involved but is also an attack on the local community. We would urge anyone with information to urgently contact the police."

Anyone with any information should call DS Richardson on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Crime scene: the convenience store in Main Street, Littleport, where the raid took place on Tuesday.

Picture: Richard Patterson 794581.

Arson-hit barn faces demolition

A BARN may have to be demolished after it was targeted in a suspected arson attack.

Four fire crews were called to the barn in Straight Furlong, Pymoor, and arrived to find it well alight.

The blaze happened at about 1.30am on Monday and is believed to have been started deliberately.

The entire interior of the 600sq m barn has been demolished, as has a tractor and other agricultural machinery which was inside it at the time.

A spokesman for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "The frame of the barn is still standing but all the building's interior has been gutted.

"The barn might be able to be saved but it might have to be demolished to make the site safe."

Two crews from Ely, one from Sutton and another from Littleport spent about three hours battling the flames.

A second barn on the site, which housed some 150 tonnes of highly flammable nitrogen fertilizer, had to be cleared by the landowner in case the fire spread.

The inferno comes just weeks after more than 100,000 tonnes of straw bales were deliberately set alight in nearby Mepal and Witcham.

Anyone with information about either blazes should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

District in UK's top ten

EAST Cambridgeshire has been revealed as one of the best places to live in the UK.

The district bagged fourth spot in the sixth annual Halifax Quality of Life Survey, leaping from 22nd place last year.

Cllr Peter Moakes, leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, welcomed the accolade – especially after Ely's city centre was criticised by retail guru Mary Portas in her report on the state of Britain's high streets.

He said: "This vindicates our responses to the comments made in the Mary Portas report, which rather knocked Ely and said it was unattractive and had a lot of boarded-up shops."

The scores were based on data including jobs, housing, education, health and crime, plus factors like the weather, traffic flows and broadband access.

The survey was topped by Hart, in Hampshire, followed by Elmbridge in Surrey and Wokingham in Berkshire.

Tough guys: Dave 'Boy' Green, right, and karate ace Nato Ficarra at the launch of a project in 2010 to encourage children into sport.

New title for ex-champ

FORMER British and European light welterweight boxing champion Dave 'Boy' Green has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours.

Mr Green, from Chatteris, also fought twice for the world welterweight title and has received the honour for his work with charities and supporting local events for the past 30 years.

He said: "I could not put into words just how happy I am.

"It's quite humbling as you only read about these things, normally. I can't believe I actually have one."

Mr Green's two attempts at world championship glory came in 1977, when he was defeated by Carlos Palomino, and in 1980 when he was knocked out by the legendary Sugar Ray Leonard.

Copper theft leaves phones dead

HUNDREDS of people were left with no phone lines for almost two days after a major cable theft.

Some 600 service users in Witchford were left with no phone or internet access when 229m of underground copper cables were dug up by thieves last Thursday.

Residents have now called for better regulation of scrap metal sales to prevent further incidents.

Mark Divall, 55, of Ward Way, Witchford, said: "I am a self-employed web designer and this theft really hit me hard – I am just glad it wasn't for longer.

"I work and keep my accounts and pay bills online, and nowadays it is part of everybody's lives. I even travelled up to an Ely pub to use the WiFi there because I needed to get online."

He added: "There are quite a number of elderly residents in Witchford and many do not have mobiles, which can be expensive to use anyway.

"It is a big concern that they feel cut off."

A spokeswoman for Cambridgeshire Police said the theft happened between 9pm on December 29, and lunchtime the following day, from outside the new recycling centre in Ely Road, on the approach to the village.

She said: "It would represent an estimated value of more than £1,000.

"Enquiries are being made locally but we would ask anyone who saw anyone suspicious on that evening and early morning to contact police on 101."

Metal thefts have made national headlines this year with offences increasing and copper in particular proving popular among thieves.

A spokesman for BT said engineers had worked around the clock to get the cable restored by Saturday afternoon.

Man to be tagged after drunken brawl in city

THREE men, including one from Sutton, who got into a fight were so drunk they could not remember the violence taking place, a court heard.

Scott Thomas, 21, Aston Wilderspin, 24, and Danrongsak Phaisawang, 26, pleaded guilty to getting involved when a fight broke out in Sidney Street, Cambridge, on December 4.

Delia Matthews, prosecuting, said: "The police got a call at 2.30am, and followed the fight on CCTV. They could see the men throwing punches at each other, falling to the ground, and Mr Phaisawang was seen with a bottle."

The court heard the CCTV footage showed Thomas, of Saffron Piece, Sutton, pacing around a group of people and making threatening hand gestures.

Presiding magistrate Stephen Baxter ordered Thomas and Wilderspin to each undergo a three-month community order, with a tagged curfew between 7pm and 7am, and pay £70 court costs.

Phaisawang, of Coldham Lane in Gislingham, Suffolk, was given a 12-month community order with 120 hours of unpaid work and ordered to pay £70 court costs.

Race date: competitors in the Little Downham run, above, and the fastest woman, Felicity Milton, below,

Pictures: Richard Patterson 794092/794095

Hundreds on marks for race day

RUNNERS from across the region converged on Little Downham for the New Year's Eve 10k race.

More than 570 people gathered for the race, where the fastest finisher was Matt Gunby, of Woodford Green Athletics Club, who passed the line in just over 30 minutes.

The fastest woman was Felicity Milton, from sister club Essex Ladies, who crossed the line in less than 35 minutes.

They each received engraved tankards, running shoe vouchers and £30 cash.

No runner left empty-handed, however, as all finishers were given a bottle of classic ale and a commemorative T-shirt.

Pauline Blake, 56, of Teversham Drift, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, said: "It was one of the best events I have ever run in and extremely well organised.

"It was perfect conditions and I achieved a personal best, finishing in 62 minutes."

Full report **page 43**

Backlash over MP's call to repeal hunt law

AGRICULTURE minister Jim Paice has courted controversy in his backing for fox hunting.

Mr Paice, the MP for South East Cambridgeshire, said the ban on hunting with dogs "simply doesn't work" and confirmed a vote on repealing the legislation would be put before Parliament.

The law allows hounds to be used to follow a scent and flush out a fox, which can then be shot or killed by a bird of prey as long as only two dogs are involved.

Hunt supporters complain this is confusing and illogical and claim an increase in membership since the law was passed in 2004.

Mr Paice made his remarks on Boxing Day, as hundreds of supporters turned out for meetings across the region.

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

Opponents to the practice, including Cambridge MP Julian Huppert, have condemned it as "barbaric".

Mr Paice, pictured, said: "The current law simply doesn't work.

"I personally am in favour of hunting with dogs – and the coalition agreement clearly states that we will have a free vote on whether to repeal the Act when there is time in the Parliamentary calendar to do so."

William Burton, the regional director of the Countryside Alliance, is a member of the Thurlow hunt.

He said: "People are continuing to support the hunt while we have got the Act in place and are determined not to let go of what we've got.

"We would like to see the Act repealed – at the time of the Act we were advocating a middle way where hunting would be regulated by an independent person."

Dr Huppert said there was no question of compromise.

He said: "I am totally against hunting animals for sport and I hope our Government will uphold the Hunting Act to make sure this barbaric practice is consigned to the history books, where it belongs.

"That is why I signed the pledge by the League of Cruel Sports to show my support for the Act because I believe no animal should be chased to the point of exhaustion and slaughtered for pleasure.

"There is no place for this in a civilised society."

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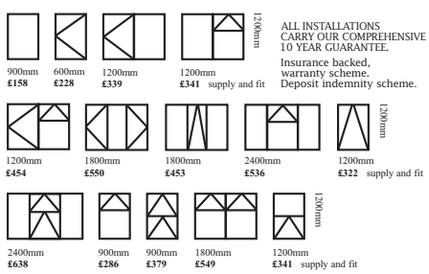

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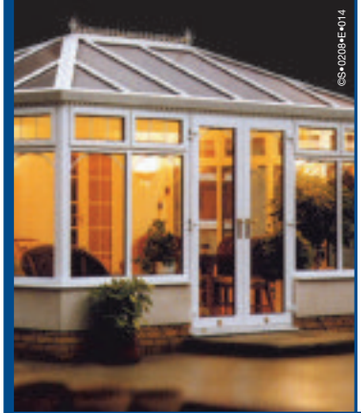

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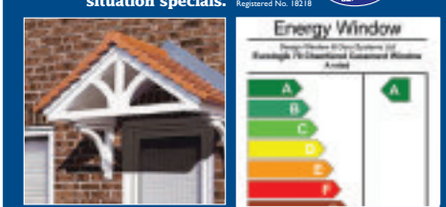

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Lidl in fresh store bid

Gateway to jobs boost

HUNDREDS of jobs are set to be created in Soham with the development of a new supermarket and petrol station.

Major firm Harrier Developments Ltd has announced massive plans to develop a 'Northern Gateway' in The Shade area of Soham.

The proposals, which the company hopes to formally submit within the next month, include building a new supermarket, a petrol station, a new recreational open space and play area.

Bosses say the scheme will lead to the area becoming more industrialised, creating even more employment.

The new supermarket alone is expected to provide up to 200 new jobs for local people.

Cllr Peter Moakes, leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC), was unaware of the proposals.

But he added: "Obviously we will welcome any development which provides new employment opportunities in these tough times.

"I do also believe that Soham needs more out-of-town services.

"As with all planning applications, the council will consider each one, but these plans will have to be in accord with the Soham Masterplan."

The proposals will be exhibited at The Pavilion in Fountain Lane, Soham, on Friday, January 13 from 2pm-5pm and Saturday, January 14 from 10am-1pm.

Proud: baby Freya with parents Vikki and Andrew Bullock. 793363.

Christmas Day baby joy

CHRISTMAS Day brought extra happiness for parents who announced the arrival of youngsters on December 25.

Baby Freya was born at 9.27am on the big day, bringing smiles to parents Vikki Bullock, 38, and Andrew Bullock, 47.

The couple, of Hempfield Place, Littleport, were delighted with their 7lb 1oz bundle of joy.

Their five-year-old daughter, Lyla, came up with a Brothers Grimm fairy tale name for her sister.

The mum-of-two said: "Lyla wanted to call the baby Rapunzel – not a great idea.

"We named Lyla from an Oasis album and the name Freya just popped into my head and it has stuck."

Over in Chatteris, Charlotte Coverdale, 20, was delighted when her baby was born on the big day. Logan Alec Coverdale came into the world at 6.10pm weighing 8lb 13oz – 10 days late.

Charlotte said: "It's special really to have a baby on Christmas Day. I am really proud."

Generation game: Charlotte Coverdale, right, with her mother, Gill Taylor, and baby Logan Alec. 793439.

Traders voice fears after Portas survey

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

GERMAN supermarket chain Lidl has launched new plans to open a store in Ely.

The budget retail giant was unsuccessful in its attempts to build a food store in the city in 2007 and again in 2008 – but now bosses want to build a non-food store instead.

The new proposals, which have been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council, involve building two separate non-food units where EMG Ford in Angel Drove currently is – directly opposite Tesco.

Lidl bought the site four years ago, although EMG Ford does still have a two-year notice agreement.

If approved, the stores could potentially be opened by 2014.

They would sell DIY goods, carpets, pet products, furniture and electrical and gas appliances. The plans have been met with grave concern by the Ely Traders Association (ETA), who say another supermarket will entice more people to shop out of the city centre.

ETA spokesman Andrew Olley said: "Mary Portas highlighted Ely in a report commissioned by David Cameron, as 'a town centre surrounded on all sides'. This application further demonstrates how right she is."

He added: "We need our council to be strong, keep car parking free in the centre of Ely and work with local businesses to develop the centre of our community. Money spent in town centre shops is much more likely to stay in the local community."

A spokesman for Lidl confirmed the fresh application had been submitted.

The spokesman added that a patch of land to the north-west of the site, which is also owned by Lidl, would not form part of the application but "may be proposed to accommodate a single dwelling in due course".

Ely is already home to Tescos, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Iceland, with planning permission already in place for an Aldi store in Lisle Lane.

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Calling all lifesavers

PEOPLE are being urged to help save lives by giving blood.

A donor session is being held at the Royal British Legion in Sutton today and at The Maltings in Ely on January 12.

On January 18 there will then be a session at the Walter Gidney Pavilion in Soham, followed by another at the Ely Beet Club in Ely on January 20. Another session will be held at The Maltings in Ely on January 31.

All sessions are held from 1pm-3.15pm and 4.30pm-7pm. To book an appointment or for more information, phone 0300 123 2323.

Mother and son accused of theft

A MOTHER and son have appeared in court charged with stealing thousands of pounds.

Joan Ballard, 58, and her son Anthony Morwood, 28, are jointly accused of stealing cash and cash boxes to the value of £6,700 from the Co-Op store in High Street, Soham, on June 19 last year.

They are also jointly charged with stealing shopping of an unknown value from the store on June 15 and June 18.

Ballard, of Centre Road, Soham, and Morwood, of Staploe Mews, Soham, appeared before Cambridge magistrates on December 29. No pleas to any of the charges were entered.

Magistrates declined jurisdiction of the case and it was adjourned until February 9 for a formal committal hearing to be heard.

Ballard and Morwood were both released on unconditional bail.

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Send your letters to: The Editor, Ely Weekly News, 27 Market Place, Ely, CB7 4NP or by email to editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

New cathedral views to enjoy

Sir, the Lib Dems are at it again, always trying to put a spanner in the works ("Bypass 'would ruin views of cathedral'", *Weekly News*, December 22).
After it's all been approved and settled for – the route to Stuntney, the longest route and the most poplar route with the public.
As for spoiling the views of the cathedral, sorry, but it will give a view of the cathedral from the bridge as never been seen before. Now, at ground level, there are trees and houses in the way. With the bridge, people will be above them – and what a view for our painters.
What would the Lib Dems be saying now if the railways had just started and people wanted to lay track across farmland as they did in 1800s? Would they say 'you can't do that – it will spoil the view of Ely Cathedral'? This Lib Dem wants the underpass to happen and it could, but it would cost more.
Firstly the bridge over the underpass will have to be renewed, that means all trains will have to stop and new footings put in for the bridge, as digging out will undermine the existing foundations.
And then excavations start to make it so that 14ft tall vehicles can get under (it is now at 9ft clearance) which will put it way below river level, so pumps will be installed which will be going 24/7.
Also, there is the the incline at either side; what will it be like for a deeper underpass? In frosty weather, in the incline means you will never get to Ely High Bridge.
And who is going to pay the railways not to run trains for months through Ely station?
I think that if this could be done it would have been done years ago.
The underpass was built for horses and carts, not 40-tonne lorries.

Eddie Holden
Ely Road
Little Downham

Whose view?: a computer-generated impression of how the bypass could look. CP

Whose views will be spoilt?

Sir, In reply to the Lib Dem councillor's statement on the southern bypass in Ely, spoiling, as he put it, the quintessential views of Ely Cathedral: having lived in the fens around Ely all my life, I would like to ask whose views will be spoilt.
Stuntney, the only hamlet near the bypass, is built on a hill, so its inhabitants won't be affected. The view shown in this computer-generated image is from to the east of the river, where no plans to build are in place. This is farmland, so the only people there are our skilled tractor drivers and farm workers who possibly work there two or three times a year.
I'm sure they will be too engrossed in their work to worry about their spoilt view.
And as to it being a county wildlife site! I cannot see all the pheasants and partridges complaining.

John Sparrow
Ely Road
Littleport

Rabbits and cows won't complain

Sir, regarding the bypass picture shown in the *Weekly News* of December 22, looking at it as shown, the line of sight would not interfere with any views whatsoever. The only living things that could complain would be rabbits and grazing cows; the only inhabitants in line of sight would be at Barway and I doubt they could see it from there. Knowing the area as I do and studying the Ordnance Survey or Google, you may see my point.
The Lib Dems don't seem to have a lot to say about wind turbines desecrating the views of the countryside so beloved by one of their dear leaders, but a bridge the third of the height of one of these monstrosities... oh no, we can't have that.
As for an underpass, how on earth (or under) could that possibly be constructed given the build-up of the area and made large enough to take all vehicles?
Whatever intelligent ideas, proposals or policies put forward nationally or locally the Lib Dems want to scrap... what a bunch.

T Strawson
Nutholt Lane
Ely

Bridge is wholly unnecessary

Sir, your article "Bridge verdict 'was not valid'" (*Weekly News*, December 22) fails to mention important facts pertaining to this planning application.
The National Trust, as part of the Wicken Fen Vision, will turn 55,000 acres of grade one agricultural land into grassland and scrub in order to create the largest free-ranging livestock herd in Europe. Surely, with a growing population, such land should be kept for food production?
The planned bridge is wholly unnecessary; a small bridge capable of taking pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists would have been quite adequate, rather than the 6m high banked construction for which planning permission has been granted. It is admitted by the National Trust that their livestock may use this bridge only three or four times a year. Far from opening the countryside, users of the path have to negotiate gates and cattle-grids. Mr Woollard is not as stated anti-National Trust, he is simply opposed to the desecration of agricultural land and the construction of this huge million-pound bridge.

Gabrielle Crook
Stretham Road
Wicken

Online shopping means factories

Sir, it seems to me that Mr Eddie Holden has more than a proportional say in the matters concerning Ely ("Mary's barking up wrong tree", *Weekly News*, December 22).
His apparent contempt for any opinion other than his own leaves me to think that his retirement should have been sooner.
Sure, more people are shopping online but I am certain that if this trend persists we will all end up working in factories packing boxes and walking there, since parking will be too expensive to make the job worthwhile.
Since Mr Holden no longer works I can imagine why it is no skin off his nose.
After all those years, why now all these ideas Mr Holden? Any vested interests?
You should be entitled to your very own parking meter outside your front door, at no extra charge.

Berthold Dwinger
Parsons Lane
Littleport

Pursuits belong in a darker age

Sir, I see that Mr James Paice, the 'Minister for Hunting,' is sucking up to the hunt supporters again. He and they are living in a darker and past age.
The Hunting Act 2004 was progressive and well-meaning legislation passed with support from all parties. If it has fault, it is that it needs tightening up. I write as a farmer and as a countryman born and bred, and I have no wish for our country to regress in its attitude to the so-called 'sports' of fox hunting, hare coursing and stag hunting. They have had their day, along with bear baiting and cock fighting.
Mr Paice is my MP. He wrote to me, somewhat illogically, saying that he disliked 'hare coursing intensely but would be reluctant to ban it because of my libertarian instincts'.
By that logic, we would still have bear baiting and cock fighting as well as fox hunting and stag hunting. I like libertarianism to a point but not beyond the point where animals are chased to exhaustion and torn limb from limb for the amusement of man. Man, and Mr Paice, ought now to know and believe better than that.

Geoffrey Woollard
Chapel Farm
River Bank,
nr Upware

Pay only for the services we use

Sir, I see that our idiotic East Cambridgeshire District Council planners have granted permission for another restaurant in Ely.
We need another one like a hole in the head.
It would have been better to convert it into housing of some sort – people are desperate for homes.
It's time to do away with all councils as they are past their sell-by date. No council tax sounds good to me.
So how do we replace paying for all the services? You simply pay for the ones you require when you require – simple, isn't it?

Sid French
Orton Drive,
Witchford

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication. Full name and address must be supplied and details will be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited.
Please email your letters to editorial@elyweekly news.co.uk.
Alternatively write to: Letters to the Editor, Ely Weekly News, 27 Market Place, Ely, CB7 4NP.

Man bailed over murder of OAP

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

A MAN arrested on suspicion of murdering 76-year-old Chittering pensioner Llywelyn Thomas has been bailed by police.

The 22-year-old man was arrested in Cambridge on Boxing Day on suspicion of murdering the pensioner.

A 21-year-old woman from the Cambridge area has also been arrested on suspicion of aiding an offender in connection with the murder.

Both have been bailed to return to Parkside Police Station, Cambridge, on February 15.

The body of classic car enthusiast Mr Thomas was discovered inside his home in Ely Road, Chittering, at about 12.30pm on Sunday, December 18. He had last been seen alive at about 6.30pm the previous day.

The father-of-one was found with traumatic head and facial injuries.

Detectives believe Mr Thomas may have been killed after a burglary went wrong.

Found dead: Llywelyn Thomas.

His silver Rover 75 estate, registration BJ51 CJV, was stolen from his home in Ely Road, and later discovered in Church Lane, Milton. It is thought to have been left there between 11pm and 11.30pm on Saturday, December 17.

Police say the vehicle had mechanical issues and would have made a lot of noise and been travelling slowly.

Investigations have also established that Mr Thomas had spoken to a friend in Wales on the telephone following the first part of the final of BBC1's *Strictly Come Dancing* on the night he died.

Detective Superintendent Jeff Hill said: "This latest information means we now know Mr Thomas was alive at about 8.20pm, which means we can specifically appeal to people who were in the Chittering area after that time.

"We now know Mr Thomas was probably killed between 8.20pm and 11.30pm on Saturday, December 17.

"It is vital that anyone who was on the A10 between Chittering and Milton between those times and saw this silver car, or anything else suspicious, calls police.

"People may remember watching the *Strictly* final and might have popped out after part one had finished. If so, did you see anything that may assist our investigation?

"Any information, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, could be vital in bringing whoever is responsible to justice."

Anyone with any information should call the Major Investigations Team on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Advertisement

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Tim Law feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Cambridge, Ely, Saffron Walden, Haverhill, Royston & Newmarket areas and Tim is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Tim a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Birthdays

CHANDLER

Happy 13th Birthday

Lots of Love
Mum, Dad and Kirk
xxxx

Happy Birthday

CHANDLER

Look Who's A Teenager
Love You Millions
Nanny D &
Nanny S
xxxx

In Memoriam

ANGELA COLE

Treasured memories of a much loved wife, mother and nannie, who passed away 2nd January, 2011.

A silent thought,
A secret tear,
Keeps her memory ever dear.

Your loving husband Graham, children Mandy, Justin and Matthew and grandchildren Jamie, Hannah, Emma, Charlotte and William.

To leave a message of condolence please visit Announcements on our website.

WOODS

In loving memory of Alan, beloved husband, dad and grandad, who died *8th January, 2006.*
Also Stephen, beloved son, brother and uncle, who died *27th December, 2009.*
Loved and remembered everyday
x x x

Anniversaries

Happy Wedding Anniversary

TRACEY ORCHARD

Lots of love from your husband
Antony
xxx

Ely Family Notices Call us on: 01353 66 79 16

Deaths

PALMER. Brian of Burnham-on-Sea. Passed peacefully away in hospital on Monday, 26th December, 2011, aged 80 years. Funeral service on Monday, 9th January, 2012, at Weston-super-Mare Crematorium at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Weston Hospicecare may be sent to Burnham Funeral Services, 97 Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 1EW. Tel: 01278 795009.

COX
Eddie

20 years

Rest safely in Heaven until the gates open wide,
For me to come and join you,
Forever by your side.

Loving you,
Sandra
xx

WILDING
HARRY

4th January, 2011
To live in the hearts of the people we love, is not to die.
Sadly missed and loved by us all,
Linda, Stephen, Andrew, Justine, Zoe, Leighton and family
x x x

Acknowledgements

WHITBY. Betty, Norman and the family of the late John of Bell Gardens, Haddenham, wish to express their sincere thanks for cards and messages of sympathy received during their recent sad loss. A special thank you to all who attended the thanksgiving service and gave donations in his memory for Cancer Research UK which amounts to £235 to date. Please accept this as the only acknowledgement.

In loving memory of
HARRY WILDING

who passed away *4th January, 2011.*
Here in my heart you'll always stay,
Loved and remembered everyday.
Brenda

Deaths

BONNETT. Ivan Arthur of Ely, passed away at home on Thursday, 15th December, 2011 aged 81 years. Reunited with his brothers, Geoff, Guy and Richard. Sadly missed by his niece Judith, nephews Alan, Colin and their families and sister-in-law Mary. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Ely on Monday, 16th January, 2012 at 10.30am, followed by interment in Ely Cemetery. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust Coronary Care Unit may be left at the service or sent to Ely Funeral Service Limited, 4 Tower Road, Ely, CB7 4HW.

BRAND. Phyllis (nee Washington) wife of the late 'Sonny', mother and mother-in-law to Ivor and Gill and sister to Edna, passed peacefully to rest in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Ely, on Sunday, December 25th, 2011, aged 90 years. Funeral service at Cambridge City Crematorium, West Chapel, on Thursday, January 5th, 2012, at 3.00pm. No flowers by request, donations if desired for The Stroke Association will be gratefully received at the service or c/o A G Carter Funeral Director, 6 Froize End, Haddenham, Cambs. CB6 3UQ. Tel: 01353 740251.

GEORGE HENRY LAVENDER

Jean would like to express her sincere thanks to everyone for their support, cards and messages of sympathy received in her sad loss of George. Special thanks to David, Molly and Nick, Canon Laurie Blanchard, Littleport Grange Nursing Home and Ely Funeral Service Limited. Thanks also for all who attended the funeral and donations received for East Anglian Air Ambulance and Littleport Grange Residential Fund.

Place your Family Notices with your local Newspaper by telephoning 01353 66 79 16 or call into 27 Market Place, Ely

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Share your kind thoughts with the family and loved ones of those who have passed away by signing the online guest book.

Go to: www.cambridge-news.co.uk/announcements under the classifieds tab. Click obituaries, select the name of the person and then click on Guest book.

Poem sheds light on Ely's ancient past

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

A MEDIEVAL poem which describes the natural beauty of Ely has been translated, published and is available to buy.

In Praise of Ely is a six-page book which is the work of Chip Coakley, Janet Fairweather and Andy English – all of whom live in the Ely area.

The Latin poem, which was written in the 12th century by Brother Gregory, a monk at the abbey in Ely, is part of a large manuscript in Cambridge.

A couple of years ago, Miss Fairweather, a scholar who speaks fluent Latin, translated the poem for a flower festival in Ely.

Mr Coakley, who has a printing press at his home in Castlehythe, was so inspired by the poem that he persuaded her it should be published.

The book was then illustrated by Andy English, a wood engraver from Little Downham.

Mr Coakley said: "The poem is written in the 12th century and is truly wonderful. It describes the natural beauty of Ely, the abundance of nature it has and how the people were all talented craftsmen and women.

"Whenever I read it I told Janet we needed to publish it for others to enjoy."

He added: "This is something which people really can treasure. It was never done as a commercial gain – it was purely to share the poem with local people.

Only 100 copies of the book have been published. Priced at £40, it is available from Topping & Company Booksellers in the High Street.

Read all about it: Chip Coakley, Janet Fairweather and Andy English with a copy of the book and the press on which it was printed. Picture: David Johnson 791376.

Branch escapes the axe

ELY'S branch of Thomas Cook has escaped closure in cutbacks that will see more than 100 other outlets shut across the UK.

The company, which has 1,300 shops nationwide, has announced that 115 stores face closure, but a spokesman insisted that Ely's branch, in Market Street, is safe.

The travel agency suffered losses of £398m after the Arab Spring and a slump in consumer confidence wrecked demand for its package holidays.

Planning applications

East Cambridgeshire District Council

■ A CHURCH could become more disability-friendly. Alan Hulme, the rector of St Mary's Church, in Ely, has applied for planning permission to make disabled access improvements to the church's north porch.

■ HAZARDOUS waste could soon be imported and processed at Mepal Quarry.
Bosses at the quarry in Block Fen Drove want to vary the conditions of their planning permission to allow hazardous waste to be imported and processed.
They want to increase the height of stockpiles from 5m to 8m.

■ WOODEN changing rooms could be built at the rear of Soham Town Bowls Club in Fountain Lane.

■ TWO new homes could be built in Soham.
East Cambridgeshire District Council has received a planning application for two three-bedroom semi-detached properties to be built at 75 Mill Corner. The applicant is David Gowing, of Greenham Park, Witchford.

■ EIGHT new affordable homes could be built in Stretham.
Hundred Houses Society, based in Cambridge, wants to build the properties on land at the rear of 7B Wilburton Road. A decision could be made within the next eight weeks.

■ TWO detached bungalows could be built in of Sutton.
Richard Hough Building Ltd has applied for planning permission for the bungalows and three detached double garages on land at the rear of 14 and 16, Lawn Lane.
The proposals also include demolishing an existing garage.

To view these applications or have your say, visit www.east cambs.gov.uk

Van man John's a famous face

Snap: John Fisher, in front of one of the vehicles that bears his image. Picture: Keith Heppell 792465.

A SUPERMARKET worker from Ely has become the face of delivery vans travelling up and down the country.

John Fisher, 66, is one of only about a dozen Waitrose employees to be chosen to appear on the supermarket giant's fleet of delivery vans in the UK.

Mr Fisher, who has worked for the firm for about 10 years and is a fish specialist at the Ely store, said: "In the summer, my section manager took photographs of all her team and sent them over to Waitrose headquarters.

"I didn't expect to hear any more from it but a couple of months later I was asked to go to London for a photo shoot.

"I was then selected, alongside around a dozen other people from across the country to be the face of Waitrose delivery vans. It's quite strange to see your face on vans when you're out and about."

Mr Fisher, a father-of-two, of Henley Way, added:"Lots of customers have come up to me to say they have seen my face on the vans. It's nice to be recognised."

Party youth in four-car crash

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

A PARTY-GOER took his ex-girlfriend's car to fetch more straws and caused a four-car smash, a court has heard.

Twenty-year-old Jack South had drunk four Budweiser beers when he took the Seat Ibiza without consent from his ex-girlfriend's house in Ely, where a group were having a party.

Cambridge Magistrates' Court heard on December 22 that he did not take his own car, parked outside, as it was a two-seater and he wanted to take two passengers.

Paul Brown, prosecuting, read a statement from one of the drivers involved in the collision in Sand Street, Soham, on October 18 last year.

He said: "The Seat was travelling towards him very fast and veered towards him and came onto his side of the carriageway. It collided with the vehicle ahead of him and he had to swerve to avoid a collision."

The court heard how South, driving at excessive speed, had lost control of the Seat and collided with a parked car and then the oncoming vehicle before ending up hitting a brick wall.

The oncoming car, a yellow Alfa Romeo had structural damage worth £2,890. The Seat he was driving and the parked car, a Toyota, were said to be "possibly written off".

The fourth car had minor damage and the brick wall will cost £1,980 to repair.

South was arrested at the scene and gave an an initial test showing he was above the legal limit. However, the reading taken later at the police station showed he was below.

He pleaded guilty at his first hearing on December 1 to aggravated vehicle taking and property damage of more than £5,000, and to using a motor vehicle without third party insurance.

District judge, Ken Sheraton, said: "The offences to which you have pleaded guilty are very serious. It was luck more than any judgement of yours that people were not injured or worse."

South, from Debden Green, Ely, was given a community order of 18 months and must complete two hundred hours of unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Online alert over income tax self assessment

PEOPLE who plan to send their tax return online for the first time are being reminded to register as soon as possible.

Any outstanding 2010/11 self assessment returns must be sent online by January 31.

A spokesman for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) said: "If you're completing a return online for the first time, you'll first need to register for online filing at *www.hmrc.gov.uk/online.*

"You'll immediately get a user ID, and an activation code will be posted to you. Once you've activated your account, you can complete your tax return online. It's important you register as early as possible, because it can take up to 10 days to receive your activation code."

For help and advice on completing a return, visit *www.hmrc.gov.uk/sa/*.

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In the news... 2011

Reporter JORDAN DAY casts his eye back over the big news stories and quirky happenings which helped to shape 2011 in the Ely area

January

ELY woman Judith Borland was made an MBE in the New Year Honours list for her dedication to supporting past and present armed services personnel and their families.

Green-fingered residents expressed their disappointment after learning that Ely would not be taking part in the prestigious Anglia in Bloom competition in the summer.

Cash-strapped East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) announced radical plans to save £2.6m over the next two years, warning that jobs at the authority would be lost and that charges would be hiked.

Local firms G's Growers and Produce Global Solutions announced plans to build a massive mushroom farm and anaerobic digestion plant in Littleport.

The Church Commissioners unveiled major plans to develop the north east area of Ely, close to the city's Princess of Wales Hospital.

Residents in Sutton launched a campaign after their parish council hiked their parish precept by a whopping 28 per cent.

February

THE Environment Agency and Defra announced major plans to turn over more than 1,000 acres of farmland in East Cambridgeshire to grassland. The sites earmarked are near Coveney and Sutton.

ECDC allowed bosses at the Murfitts site in Wisbech Road, Littleport, to reopen the site as an outside storage site for rubber granules, despite major fears from residents that it was vulnerable to another blaze breaking out .

Planners approved proposals to build a 35-acre solar energy farm in Wilburton, making it the largest solar energy farm in East Anglia.

Members of the Ely Muslims announced they wanted to build a miniature mosque in Ely.

It was announced that full-time jobs at Ely fire station could be scrapped in favour of retained cover only as part of major cost-cutting plans.

March

NATURE lovers were up in arms as the latest phase of Ely's Country Park project got under way, insisting ECDC was ruining the city's countryside by laying unnatural-looking footpaths and picking the wrong time of year to carry out the work.

Tennis ace Tim Henman visited Soham to formally open the town's new adiZone facility.

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway was formally installed as the new Bishop of Ely.

After years of discussion and debate, ECDC planners finally approved plans to build a multi-million pound new leisure centre on land off the A10, close to Ely Rugby Club.

Cambridgeshire County Council announced it was to close the pupil referral centre in Ely as part of major cutbacks.

Work finally started on Ely's new Sainsbury's store in Lisle Lane .

April

THE principal and governors of Ely College launched new rules governing student behaviour and school uniform. The new rules were praised by the majority of parents but caused uproar among some, who insisted they were too "petty".

Residents and visitors to Ely's Waterside area called for a duck feeding area to be paved off, insisting the waterfowl were turning the area into an "ugly mudbath".

High street chain Caffe Nero announced it was to open a new outlet in Ely's High Street – much to the horror of local independent cafe owners.

Fairground operator Marie Bell, from Wilburton, was barred from Ely's Bank Holiday Monday markets despite having traded in the city for almost 20 years.

The East Anglian division of the English Defence League threatened to protest in Ely if plans to build a mosque in the city progressed.

May

RESTAURANT, pub and cafe owners in East Cambridgeshire attacked East Cambridgeshire District Council's Scores on the Doors food hygiene rating system, insisting it was "fooling" members of the public.

Thousands of people flocked to Ely to celebrate the city's annual Eel Festival.

Residents of all ages pulled out the stops to celebrate the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Contentious plans to introduce car parking charges in Ely took one step closer to becoming reality when ECDC and Cambridgeshire County Council announced they were applying to the Department for Transport for civil parking enforcement in the city.

Plans to open a new free school in Ely, called the Bridge, gathered pace, despite concerns from some parents and community leaders.

Bill and Kay Wayman, from Ely, got the shock of their lives after discovering they had returned home from a holiday in Cyprus with a deadly scorpion in their suitcase.

June

CONTENTIOUS plans to leave Ely's and Soham's fire stations with just one appliance each were granted a temporary reprieve by bosses at cash-strapped Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Thousands of families turned out for the annual Soham Carnival and Heavy Horse Show.

Furious traders and business owners launched a petition fighting council plans to introduce parking charges in Ely. The petition attracted thousands of signatures in weeks and the total figure was over 12,000.

Yobs vandalised a state-of-the-art new adiZone facility in Soham just months after it was opened to families.

Controversial plans to turn Maltings Cottage in Ely into council-run holiday lets were ditched by newly-elected council leader Peter Moakes, much to the delight of locals.

Bosses at Ely Cathedral launched a campaign to raise £140,000 needed for urgent repair work to be carried out.

July

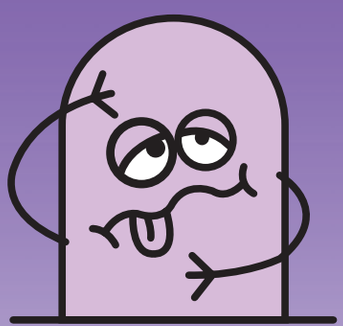
RESIDENTS slammed police for failing to deal

LOCAL FACES IN THE FRAME

Making headlines: In August we reported how Brian Brooks, pictured with wife Nicky, astonished doctors who gave him just 12 months to live while right, the parking fees row dominated the agenda in Ely for much of 2011.

Ace: former tennis star Tim Henman helps open the adiZone in Soham with Jade Campbell in March. The facility was vandalised in June.

Type I or II Diabetic volunteers wanted



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at a glance

Bishop's cat shot

In the news: Local faces featured in our pages during the year include Bill and Kay Wayman, left, who brought a scorpion home from holiday in their suitcase; right, Gurdip Jatana, who fought off armed robbers in Mepal and far right, pupils at Little Thetford Primary, who celebrated the royal wedding in April. The front page above shows one of several stories during the year featuring new bishop the Rt Revd Stephen Conway

with louts drinking booze in the grounds of Ely Cathedral and insisted it was ruining the cathedral experience for locals and tourists alike.

Colourful rafts took over the River Great Ouse at the annual Ely Aquafest.

Frustrated residents spoke up over the issue of US Air Force plans flying too low over Ely and said they were making their lives a misery.

Building a southern bypass in Ely was identified as one of Cambridgeshire County Council's key infrastructure priorities.

Tree vandals struck at a tree in Waterside, Ely, and nature lovers believe it could have been an act of revenge against a proposed tree preservation order.

August

HIGHWAYS bosses announced they were planning to cut the speed limit of the A10 between Ely and Cambridge from 60mph to 50mph – something which has proved to be controversial ever since.

Council chiefs allowed national coffee shop chain Caffe Nero to remain open in Ely's High Street despite the company failing to seek planning permission.

Residents feared that proposed reforms to national planning policy could see East Cambridgeshire's dreaded Mereham development raising its ugly head again.

Grandfather Brian Brooks, from Stuntney, astounded doctors who gave him just 12 months to live by taking part in a groundbreaking cancer treatment trial.

Pet owner Darren Smith, from Littleport, was left flabberghasted after discovering his pet cat, Rosie, was both male and female.

September

POLICE revealed London-based drug dealers were travelling to Ely to set up bases to sell their narcotics.

Almost 2,000 people had joined a group on social networking site Facebook calling for Ely to be listed as in Cambridgeshire rather than Norfolk. The error still has not been rectified.

It was revealed that East Cambridgeshire could end up being merged into one constituency as part of a huge shake-up of Parliamentary seats.

Budget supermarket giant Aldi submitted new plans to build a store in Ely, three years after originally being granted permission.

A public meeting was held for worried traders to air their views about proposed parking charges for Ely.

It was revealed the Bishop of Ely's pedigree cat had disappeared after being shot with an airgun.

October

TESCO bosses announced they wanted to demolish their store in Angel Drove, Ely, and build a new, bigger supermarket further down the road.

ECDC bosses sparked fury after saying Ely's Market Place should be turned into a large car park. The idea was later dropped following a public backlash.

Contentious plans to build a mushroom farm in Littleport were approved, bringing about 200 new jobs to the area.

Social housing provider Sanctuary Housing announced it was going to close the Barns Community Rooms in High Barns, Ely. Efforts are being made to find alternative locations for the pre-school, after-school club and other organisations which meet there.

Littleport residents rallied round to help save the village's annual agricultural show from being scrapped.

It was announced Ely's park-and-ride service was to be scrapped as it was costing too much money to run and was being underused.

November

DESPITE more than 12,000 people having signed a petition fighting car parking charges in Ely, ECDC voted to press ahead with the plans.

A state-of-the-art new recycling centre formally opened its doors in Witchford.

Contentious plans to build new wind farms in Littleport and Coveney were scrapped.

ECDC launched a review into the way one of Ely's most criticised community hubs, The Maltings, is managed.

Plans to turn Sanctuary Housing's offices in Ely into a "boutique" hotel were announced.

Hit band The Overtones helped switch on Ely's Christmas lights.

The Bishop of Ely came under fire from residents for getting rid of the large vegetable garden and ancient box hedging at his home instead of handing the area over to the local community to manage.

December

PLANS to cut the speed limit of the A10 between Ely and Cambridge were put off.

The Department for Transport confirmed that millions of pounds were to be spent on boosting train services between Ely and Soham.

ECDC was slammed in the major Mary Portas review for failing to listen to their electorate's views and favouring out of town development over boosting town centre trade.

£28m plans to build a southern bypass in Ely were officially backed.

Two balaclava-clad men wielding a sword and a crowbar tried to break their way into Mepal Post Office but were bravely fought off by its owner Gurdip Jatana.

Community leaders said Ely's derelict courthouse was falling into a state of disrepair as they continued to wait for reports back from HMCS concerning the building's future.

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The biggest loser is a real winner!

ELY'S Biggest Loser has been crowned! Soham church minister Rev Sara Cliff has been named the winner of our weight-loss competition after dropping 37lbs and 30ins.

Sara and fellow contestants David Powell and Cheryl de Val have been on an epic journey for the last 12 weeks after being chosen to take part by the *Weekly News* in partnership with Ely personal trainer Tim Megginson after telling us why they deserved a chance on Tim's Body Shape Fitness Camp.

Tim has trained the contestants at his group personal training class in Ely and has coached them through all the nutrition, lifestyle, supplementation and goal-setting advice that is part and parcel of the programme. Each competitor has completely transformed their bodies.

Tim said: "I'm really happy with how the competition went. The guys have been great to work with, and even though I gave them the precise tools and coaching they needed to lose weight and get fit, they did the hard work.

"I'm so proud and happy for them and their achievements. I'm constantly striving and researching for a better way, fine-tuning the programme and improving it as I go. I believe I can get anybody in fantastic shape and our very own church minister is living proof of this system; someone who has tried every other method of weight loss going with no success! I'm so glad she has finally got the results she deserved. Well done Sara, I'm so pleased and excited for you."

As an extra bonus for readers who have been following the trio's progress, Tim is offering the first 20 people who apply from the Ely area a chance to have a free week of training at his fitness camp to kick-start their new year body.

The sessions will be held from January 9-14. To apply, phone 07914 590894 or visit *www.bodyshapefitnesscamp.co.uk*.

WINNER: Rev Sara Cliff, 45, church minister from Soham

Weight lost: 37 lbs, 30ins collectively from waist, bum and upper thighs. Sara wins a year at Body Shape Fitness Camp.

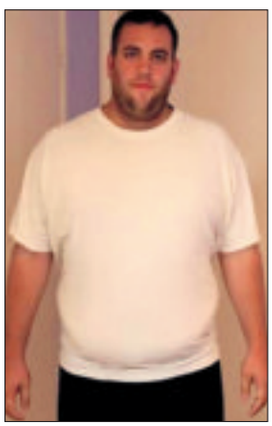
"I DIDN'T expect this at all, as the other contestants had done so well. I'm feeling very positive and encouraged to continue.

"The most amazing thing happened on Christmas morning when mum gave me a new blouse, which was three sizes less than last year's and it was baggy! Tim the trainer is absolutely awesome, knows his stuff and is an extremely good motivator.

"I'm looking forward to a year of early starts, and the energised post-workout feeling. This program is the only one that has worked for me. I am the classic yo-yo dieter.

"I have lost before and it's gone back on. I have a whole library of fitness DVDS and workouts. This works because you have to match the nutrition with exercise, you get the positive mindset and you have to be accountable to Tim and the other Fit Campers."

Slimming: The extent of Sara's weight loss can be seen in these pictures taken during the training.

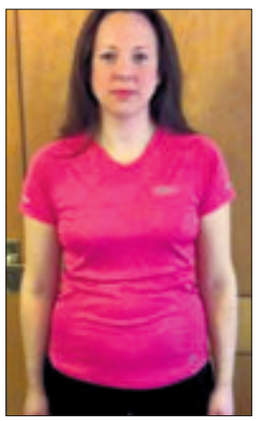


SECOND PLACE: David Powell, 33, photographer from Ely. Weight lost 33lbs, 25ins

"Training with Tim has been a life-changing experience in every sense. Gone are the cravings for chocolate, fizzy drinks and other high-sugar, low-nutrient 'treats'.

"From day one, I made some amazing new friends and Tim has been the consummate professional from the outset; from the day he phoned me to ask about taking part in the competition to the last training session he has been 100 per cent dedicated to encouraging me, guiding me and helping me to rewrite my entire outlook on life. Without Tim I'd still be doing all the bad things while saying I planned on doing the good things, which then obviously never would happen.

"Thanks to Tim and the *Weekly News* for this remarkable opportunity, I have relished (not in the condiment sense!) every challenge that has come my way and I will never go back to how I was. I intend to continue to train with Tim's Fitness Camp and my new friends next year and keep striving to better my life at every opportunity.



THIRD PLACE: Cheryl De Val, 27, bathroom specialist from Sutton. Weight lost 22lbs, 12ins

Unfortunately, Cheryl had to leave the competition early in week nine. She suffered a bad horse riding accident and was deemed unable to continue by a doctor.

"I'm really so happy with the results I got from the programme. I was gutted to have to leave before the end of the competition.

"In the nine weeks I went from a size 16 to a size 12 and I lost 1st 8lbs. I found the fitness camp experience, challenging, fun and very rewarding.

"Tim was a fantastic fitness trainer and nutrition coach. If you want to lose weight, get toned and be shown exactly how to do it. This programme is definitely for you."

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Write on: author Rodney Bilson with his book *Whispering Words*. Picture: Keith Heppell 793863.

New tale is the cat's whiskers

AN amateur author has had one of his tales published in a collection of fictional stories.

Rodney Bilson, 73, started writing poetry and fiction when he retired.

In eight years, he has had numerous poems and three stories published, the latest of which is called *The Cat*.

The story, which is an imaginative short tale about a man who is given just 12 hours to live and who encounters a mysterious, green-eyed feline, has been published in a fictional collection called *Whispering Words*.

Mr Bilson, who lives in High Barns, Ely, with his wife Olive, said: "When I retired I started to write poetry. I have given a lot of the poems to Ely library as I'd rather people read them than they just sit up in the attic. *The Cat* is my third story to be published.

"It's great to see something you've spent time and put a lot of thought into putting together being published.

"There is nothing in particular which inspired me to write *The Cat*. It's just a fun, imaginative little story which came to me."

***Whispering Words* is now available to buy in most good book shops.**

Homes plan is moving on

Scheme could be start of huge city expansion

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to develop the north-east edge of Ely are a step closer to becoming reality.

The Church Commissioners for England have now formally applied to East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) for planning permission for the major development.

The proposals concern land at Highflyer Farm, which lies east of the city's Princess of Wales Hospital and includes building about 500 new homes.

As well as houses, the applicants want to build a "neighbourhood centre" comprising a supermarket, shops, a pub and business units.

The plans also include building a new primary school, a place of worship and/or community hall, open space, playing fields, new roads and community allotments.

The scheme could be the first phase of plans to build thousands of homes in the north of Ely over the next 15 years, which will expland its population from 15,000 to 25,000 residents.

The plans were first announced earlier this year. Residents have been able to see the proposals and raise their views at two public consultations.

District and city Cllr Mike Rouse, who represents north Ely, has praised the applicants for the plans.

He said: "The large part of the lower lying areas is allocated to the country park and there is considerable impetus for an urban drainage system.

"They have put a lot of thought into the design.

"It recognises that mistakes have been made in the past and that this site deserves a very high degree of thought into how it links to other parts of the city."

The site is identified for new homes in the Ely Masterplan, which was published by ECDC in spring 2010.

A spokeswoman for the Church Commissioners of England said: "The Ely Masterplan sets out to provide a long-term vision to help manage the growth of Ely over the next 20-25 years – with development at Highflyer Farm envisaged as the first phase of a much larger development in North Ely eventually totalling some 3,000 new houses.

"The Commissioners' proposals for Highflyer Farm are considered to be compatible with the council's indicative Masterplan for North Ely and will be built out to be complementary to the wider vision."

ECDC will be holding a public consultation to enable residents to have their say before any decision is made.

For more information go to *www.eastcambs.gov.uk* or *www.highflyerfarm-ely.co.uk*.

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Police chief to bid farewell

Officer poised for Fenland return

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

ELY'S policing chief Robin Sissons will be leaving East Cambridgeshire next year as part of a major reshuffle of staff by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Moving on: Robin Sissons will be sector inspector for Wisbech.

Insp Sissons, who took over as Ely's sector inspector in February last year, will be returning to Fenland as sector inspector for Wisbech.

Insp Sissons was sector inspector for March from October 2006-08 before becoming sector inspector for Wisbech from 2008-09.

He has held similar positions at Huntingdon, Parkside, in Cambridge, and East Cambridgeshire.

It is believed Ely's new sector inspector will be Russ Waterson.

The reshuffle, called Operation Redesign, will see the force being split into six geographic areas – East Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge city.

A police spokesman said: "The force is restructuring to deliver local policing within existing local authority and community safety partnership boundaries.

"Inspector Robin Sissons will be returning to Fenland next year as part of the moves for the future local policing structure which will consist of six geographic areas.

"Working at this local level is the most appropriate way to respond to community needs and avoid a one-size-fits-all policing approach to local issues.

"Using these areas as our local policing boundaries will encourage colleagues to continue to work closely with their partners and communities on the issues that matter most to local people."

All smiles: two youngsters get in on the act to plant woodland in Mepal. CP.

Residents dig deep to make woodland

RESIDENTS of all ages grabbed their shovels and dug deep to create a new community woodland in their village.

Pupils from Mepal and Witcham Primary School, members of Mepal Youth Club and other local volunteers helped to plant hundreds of native trees on an area of scrubland between Mepal and the A142.

The native trees planted included oak, field maple, hazel and wild cherry.

Twenty five elm trees were also donated by Butterfly Conservation and planted in order to attract a white moth, which is native to the area.

Mepal Parish Council, which is promoting the project, hopes the trees will also go towards protecting a nearby housing estate from traffic noise.

Mark Newstead, chairman of the project working party, said: "The new woodland is a wonderful addition to our village and will be much enjoyed by current and future villagers.

"We are hugely grateful to the parish council and all the organisations and individuals involved in realising this fantastic project for Mepal."

The event was held as part of the Planting Parishes project, a joint initiative between East Cambridgeshire District Council and the Woodland Trust.

Set up to create woodland areas for community use and to reduce carbon emissions, the initiative is helping to transform pockets of land around East Cambridgeshire.

The event was supported by Woodford Waste Management Services Ltd through a £5,000 grant from the company's Woodford Community and Environmental Fund.

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Business success for young Rhianna

Winner: Rhianna Jones with her device to measure jumps. CP

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

WHEN 16-year-old Rhianna Jones started work on her GCSE design technology project she never imagined it would develop into an exciting business opportunity.

Rhianna, a student at the King's School Ely, is an accomplished showjumper and knows first hand how difficult it is to judge the heights of the jumps.

So for her GCSE project last year, she set about designing a special height-marking system for show jumps.

Twelve months later, the young entrepreneur has launched HowHi markers, which are attracting plenty of attention in the equestrian world.

Rhianna said: "As part of my GCSE exam I had to create something new and nothing like HowHi markers had been produced before.

"Many people would like to know how high they have been jumping in the field or in their arena, also for those who usually work in imperial units to metric units.

"HowHi markers make judging the height of a show jump so easy – no more rushing around to find a tape measure.

"My original markers were made out of wood and had to be attached with screws.

"Since then, I've modified the design and HowHi markers have a magnetic strip on the back which means they can be easily removed when the show jumps need to be painted or repaired."

HowHi markers are being snapped up by horse owners from across the world and have even appeared on television.

Gym plan gets the go-ahead

PLANS to turn an empty industrial unit into a gymnasium have been approved by councillors.

Neil Green, of Julius Martin Lane, Soham, applied to East Cambridgeshire District Council for planning permission to convert number 107A, Clay Street, Soham, into a gym.

The gym will have a large weights room, a separate exercise area, a studio for classes and a toilet block. There will also be a reception area, changing rooms, showers and a storage area.

Approving the application, planning officer Rebecca Saunt said: "There are no other units located within the centre of Soham which would meet the needs of the applicant or be able to provide sufficient floor space."

Vaccine call highlights dangers of influenza

PREGNANT women and people with long-term health conditions are being urged to get the flu vaccination.

NHS Cambridgeshire says pregnant women, elderly people and those with conditions such as asthma, heart disease or diabetes are more likely to suffer serious health problems if they get flu.

Dr Lincoln Sargeant, consultant in public health medicine at NHS Cambridgeshire, said: "Flu can cause serious illness in pregnant women and in the most severe cases can put the lives of expectant mothers and their unborn babies at risk.

"People with long-term conditions are used to managing their health and taking precautions.

"However, many do not consider flu to be a risk.

"Getting flu when you already have a long-term condition can lead to serious complications and tragically, in some cases, death – but these can be prevented by having the free vaccine."

Contact your GP for more information about the vaccine.

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Woman's nose broken in row with husband

Man had been drinking at time of attack, court told

A MAN who fractured his wife's nose after headbutting her in the face has escaped an immediate jail sentence.

Shaun Leadbetter, 36, pushed his wife to the ground, straddled her and headbutted her, leaving blood pouring from her nose, a court heard.

A violent row at their house in Sandys Crescent, Littleport, erupted on September 23 this year after Leadbetter tried to break up with his wife.

Cambridge Crown Court heard on December 21 how she responded by slapping him across the face, knocking off his glasses.

Benedict Peers, mitigating, said his client, who has a serious alcohol problem and had been drinking at the time, had "overreacted" to the initial blow.

He said: "It was a spontaneous and impulsive incident, and there is no suggestion of prior violence between him and his wife.

"The isolated incident was a result of drink and a deteriorating relationship between the couple."

Jacob Edwards, prosecuting, said Leadbetter also threatened to kill his wife's father during the incident, but when asked to leave the house he did so immediately.

Leadbetter was later arrested and pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm at Cambridge Magistrates' Court on November 9.

Leadbetter's wife wrote a letter to the judge at Cambridge Crown Court in which she stated she was still happy for him to have contact with their children.

Recorder Nicola Padfield said: "Clearly what you did to your wife on that day went far beyond a broken nose.

"This was a very unpleasant, ugly attack on your wife, which has left her devastated in many ways."

Leadbetter was sentenced to nine months in prison suspended for two years.

He was ordered to pay £200 compensation to his wife and was also given a curfew from 8pm to 8am for six months at his new address in Emmaus, Green End, near Landbeach.

Party time: staff and residents at Fen House gather to celebrate. Picture: Keith Heppell 793167.

Care centre shows its gratitude

A RESIDENTIAL centre which cares for people with acquired brain injuries thanked its supporters with a festive gathering.

Staff at Fen House in Ely, which is run by the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT), threw open its doors and offered activities and a buffet to people and organisations who have supported the charity in the last 12 months.

Among those at the event were representatives from Jolly Good Van Hire, Cloverleigh Kennels, AmeyCespa, the Waitrose Gardening Team and Wilburton's Women's Group, who have all helped the charity in some way.

Also present was 26-year-old Luke Flatman, from Littleport, who spent two months at Fen House following a car crash in 2008. Mr Flatman was in his final year at Hull University when he was involved in a head-on crash on his way to campus.

The former Hills Road Sixth Form College student and Ely Cathedral chorister spent 10 days in a coma after suffering a brain injury. He also broke his left foot, his collar bone and required a large steel rod in his right leg.

Earlier this year, he ran the London Marathon and raised more than £1,000 for BIRT. He is now focusing on his dream to become a music producer.

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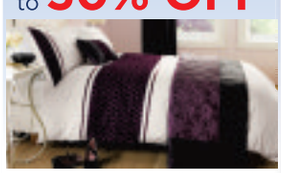

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YOUR GUIDE TO MOVING HOME

1 **Moving home can be a complicated business and, in the hectic run to the big day, it is all too easy to forget something vital. The Property News offers their readers this handy checklist that should help avoid major pitfalls. We suggest you tick off the items as you deal with them...**

WITH FOUR WEEKS TO GO:

- ☐ Get estimates from removal companies, checking that comprehensive insurance cover is available against damage or loss. Is there a packing and unpacking service? Confirm the date of your move with the firm you have chosen.
- ☐ Check on your home contents insurance policies to ensure that you are covered for the move, and covered at your new address.
- ☐ Make arrangements for your gas and electricity meters (plus water meters where relevant) to be read and all your appliances to be disconnected on the day of your move.
- ☐ Arrange to take over gas and electricity at your new address, and make sure that all appliances will be properly fitted, plumbed or connected.
- ☐ Notify British Telecom and ask them to make the necessary arrangements for a final account at your present address, and for taking over or installing telephone facilities at your new home.
- ☐ Arrange for change of address cards to be printed.

WITH TWO WEEKS TO GO:

- ☐ Confirm all arrangements, times etc, for meter readings, disconnections and reconnections, with authorities and with your buyer and seller.
- ☐ Make sure you have a good stock of packing materials, including sturdy boxes and plenty of string and sticky tape.
- ☐ Begin to throw out unwanted items from attics, wardrobes. What you really don't want you may as well dump now, or send to charity. It's a great time for a good sort out!

WITH ONE WEEK TO GO:

- ☐ Send off change of address cards.
- ☐ Arrange and pay for automatic redirection of your mail by the Post Office.
- ☐ Cancel and pay up accounts for routine delivery services such as milk, groceries, fuel and your Cambridge Evening News. Re-organise these deliveries for your new address.
- ☐ Defrost refrigerators in preparation for move and, if you are moving a freezer and its contents, turn it up to maximum for a couple of days before you move.

WITH ONE DAY TO GO:

- ☐ Complete your packing except for those items you are likely to need overnight, and prepare a picnic for moving day.
- ☐ Have a large enough cash 'float' available to deal with unexpected expenses, and make sure you have collected documents and valuables together in a safe place.
- ☐ Cover carpets which are being left behind, so as to minimise damage during furniture removal.
- ☐ Check through previous lists to make sure nothing has been overlooked, then enjoy a worry-free early night!

2 ON MOVING DAY:

- ☐ Strip beds and pack bedding and nightclothes.
- ☐ Pack items for washing/toiletries.
- ☐ Take down curtains.
- ☐ Take up rugs, carpets, floor coverings, as required.
- ☐ Dismantle any light fittings etc., not included in the sale.
- ☐ Turn off electric appliances.
- ☐ Disconnect cooker.
- ☐ Turn off boiler/central heating.
- ☐ Turn off water.
- ☐ Read gas meter.
- ☐ Read electricity meter.
- ☐ Secure all windows.
- ☐ Lock all doors.
- ☐ Leave key as arranged with new owners.
- ☐ On arrival at your new home, unpack slowly and methodically so that you can check for loss or damage.

3 EXTRA HINTS FOR A SMOOTH MOVE...

WHO TO NOTIFY:

- ☐ Banks.
- ☐ Building Societies.
- ☐ Credit companies.
- ☐ Insurance companies.
- ☐ Gas, Electricity and Water Boards.
- ☐ Telephone company.
- ☐ Local Authority (Rating Department).
- ☐ Driving Licence authorities.
- ☐ Inland Revenue.
- ☐ Store cards and accounts.
- ☐ Other lease, hire or rental companies.
- ☐ Employer.
- ☐ Doctor.
- ☐ Dentist.
- ☐ Schools.
- ☐ Professional Bodies/Trade Unions.
- ☐ Motoring organisations.
- ☐ Newsagent.
- ☐ Friends and relatives.

FIUK1

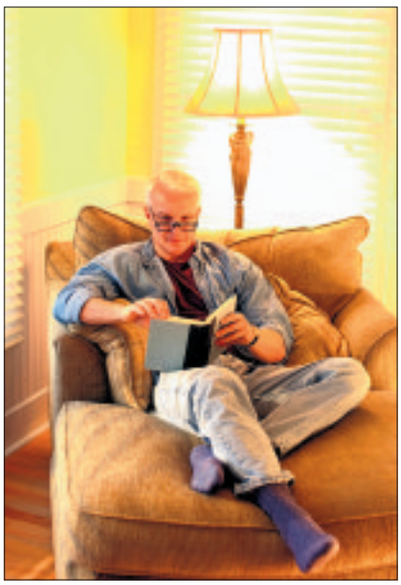
MAKE CHANGES 2012

MAKE CHANGES 2012

It's going to be hectic this year – so all the more reason to create a sanctuary for yourself!

LIFE can often seem hectic, so resolve to spend more time relaxing this year.

Why not create a private retreat where you can go to unwind, read, and escape intrusions?



Read on: It's easy to escape without going anywhere.

You'll be pleasantly surprised how easy it is to escape without going anywhere.

Read on to find just the right idea for you to create your own sanctuary.

A Quiet Corner for Reading

Most people would love a little more time to lose themselves in a good book, but it can be hard to find a suitable place to curl up, undisturbed.

Look around your home. Do you have a spare closet or quiet corner of a bedroom or study? Somewhere you won't be interrupted by a telephone ringing or computer announcing that you have an email.

Be very careful about where you place a comfortable chair and spend some time getting the view just right.

Place a small table next to the comfortable chair, one that is just big enough for a book, a cup, and a lamp. Don't be tempted to put anything else – including your mobile phone – on the table.

When you have your reading corner just right, close the door, turn off the phone, put on some soothing instrumental music, and read to your heart's content. And don't be surprised if you doze off!

Soak In Privacy

Do you always jump in and out of the shower in five minutes? If so, you're missing out on one of life's most simple pleasures – soaking in a bath.

To set a relaxing and comforting mood, pay special attention to the lighting in your bathroom. Install a dimmer switch on the overhead fixture or place a small lamp on the counter. If that's too much effort, light some candles instead.

Listen to the radio, read a pile of trashy magazines or just unwind in silence.

Be sure to invest in some wonderful, thick towels. You might also want to get a luxuriously soft dressing gown.

A Private Place for Hobbies

Do you long for time and place to do some writing?

If, so, create a place in your home just for that. Whether you write long hand or on a computer, your space should be a haven from outside distractions. If you must share an area of a room, use a divider screen to separate your space from the rest of the room. Have a desk, comfortable chair, good lighting, and pin up some postcards, poems or photos that inspire you.

Are you a secret artist with no time to pursue your dream? Provide space to set up an easel, arrange your paints, pastels, or pencils so they're convenient, have good lighting, and be sure that your space has a wonderful, inspiring view.

A quiet nook is a perfect place to do needlework. Using fabrics as your canvas, create works of art with threads, wool, or appliquéd items, to decorate the rest of the house, making it just as cosy as your private corner.

Improved well-being is a must

JANUARY can be a depressing time, it's dark, it's cold and there's less money in your account than you might like.

But don't slump into your sofa – make a resolution to make new friends, get fit or generally improve your well-being with a new hobby.

■ The popularity of Strictly Come Dancing means that more people than ever are taking to the floor for classes – but if the formal ballroom or sexy Latin styles aren't for you, give some thought to break dancing, pole dancing or jazzercise.

■ Reading groups are a great way to have the sort of discussion you imagined you would have at university (where in fact most of what you learnt was about alcohol tolerance). Swapping your favourite titles, and dipping into the passions of others is a great way to make friends, and a very cheap hobby to boot.

■ While bird watching is traditionally know as a geeky habit, it is currently enjoying a resurgence, with celebrities including Damon Albarn and Alison Steadman confessing to a love of all things feathered. The benefits of bird watching are numerous – the costs are low (unless you have to have the best binoculars), it has a peaceful almost meditative atmosphere and you spend large amounts of time in the great outdoors. The weekend of the 28-29 January is the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, so check *www.rspb.org.uk* for details of how to join in. If that's a bit chilly for you, invest in a bird feeder and watch from your window.

■ If that's got you in the mood for outdoor pursuits, why not consider the new sport of paddle boarding at Wicken Fen. Standing on a surfboard, paddling up the Lode may feel a bit wobbly, but the unspoilt views and glimpses of wildlife more than make up for the odd wet ankle.

Knitting: Unexpected delight awaits.

■ Glee has done for choirs what Strictly did for dancing, and new groups are springing up all over the place. A great way to meet people and a brilliant way to let off steam after a hard day. You can always warm up to the idea with a karaoke night with friends.

■ When the new year rolled around, you probably started thinking about your summer holiday, but while you're at it, why not consider taking up a new language? Six months should be more than enough time to pick up the basics, and knowing you've got a trip planned at the end of it should give you plenty of confidence.

■ If you have a creative streak, and a few spare hours, it's time to get crafty. Have a go at knitting, jewellery making or upholstering, if you're feeling practical, or just try a pencil sketch or painting. There's sure to be lots of evening classes starting this month, but if that's too much of a commitment, you'll find hundreds of free projects and advice online, or at your local library.

■ If your resolution was to get fit, but you're finding it tough to stay motivated, sign up for a race, charity bike ride or sponsored swim in late spring or early summer. The thought of people supporting you will spur you on, even when you'd much rather be curled up on the sofa. Just picture how proud you'll feel at the finish line.

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MAKE CHANGES 2012

Explore job roles for new year

Neaves & Neat Recruitment Open Day is on January 24

IF you're looking for a new job this year, a local recruitment firm has just the event for you.

The Neaves & Neat Recruitment Open Day will be held on January 24, and promises informative talks from local employers, free skills testing for areas such as accounting and IT (useful evidence of your abilities for future job interviews), and interview and CV advice.

You can book your appointment to meet local employers, or simply turn up on the day, which will run from 8.45am-7pm, to allow people to visit after finishing work.

Local employers attending include Elecheck (EST) Ltd (10am) and G's Fresh (midday).

Of course you will also be able to review current vacancies from some top businesses, and discuss with the Neaves & Neat staff the best way to make your application stand out from the crowd.

Neaves & Neat specialises in recruitment on a permanent, temporary and contract basis across areas including administration, finance and accountancy, sales, marketing, engineering, technical and IT roles, industrial and customer service.

Neaves & Neat is one of the largest independent recruitment agencies across Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, so you're bound to find the help you need to make 2012 the year that things change.

Visit the Recruitment Open Day on Tuesday, January 24 at Neaves and Neat, 80 Broad Street, Ely, from 8.45am-7pm. For more information call (01353) 667005 or visit *www.neavesandneat.co.uk*.

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MAKE CHANGES 2012

How would a slimmer you be possible?

THE start of a new year is often the time when we consider making changes in our lives.

One of the most popular resolutions we make is to get in shape and lead a healthier lifestyle; and Slimming World offers a perfect place to kick-start your new routine.

Slimming World is the UK's largest slimming organisation and holds more than 6,500 groups weekly across the country. Meetings focus on both the physical and psychological burdens of being overweight and help men and women of all ages find the confidence and motivation to lead happier, less stressful and therefore healthier lives.

Slimming World allows members to choose their own target weight, or Personal Achievement Target (PAT). Once they've achieved it, they become a lifetime member and can attend group free of charge (as long as they stay within 3lbs of their target weight). The organisation tends to have around 30,000 target members at any one time.

One local slimmer is proof that the Slimming World approach really sees results.

Lawrence Moll, 34, joined Littleport group in September 2010. By November, he had lost 10 per cent of his initial weight, earning him his Club 10, and went on to lose a total of 9 stone in 52 weeks. He told us how he achieved his target and what it means to him now:

"I was considered to be a tall and athletic schoolboy/teenager until I left 6th form and gave up sport in favour of social activities," says Lawrence. "Since that point I gradually got bigger and bigger and less active by the year as daily life, work and children took over.

"The final straw came with the birth of my son Larry (now 15 months old), when I realised that if I wanted to run around and play football when he could walk I needed to start losing weight as soon as possible or it would be too late. This really struck a chord with me."

Lawrence Moll: Before Slimming World.

After: Lawrence believes in himself.

What made you choose Slimming World?

"I love food optimising, and the fact I don't have to count anything too complicated. I can still enjoy the same meals as the family as long as they're the right foods and proportioned correctly, as well as a take-away and cider once a week.

"And of course Image Therapy was essential for weekly support and motivation. I found that Sharon (Heaps, Littleport's Slimming World consultant) gave me enough encouragement, and the confidence to believe in myself and my ability to reach the smaller goals that have added up to a large weight loss."

There are more overweight men than women in the UK, with 65 per cent of men classed as overweight or obese compared to 56 per cent of women. The good news for the lads, however, is that men tend to lose weight faster than women – they have a higher muscle mass which burns more energy, giving them a higher metabolic rate. Curry, chips and beer are some of the things men hate giving up most – and the good news is that with food optimising they don't have to!

For more information or to find a Slimming World group near you, visit *www.slimmingworld.com* or contact Sharon Heaps at Littleport on (01353) 861499.

Easy ways to uncover the thin you waiting to blossom

WEIGHT loss can seem a daunting challenge, but with a few simple steps you'll be on your way to a slimmer new year.

Here's a few tips to make it easier for you:

■ Make it official. Whether it's joining a slimming club, telling friends and family or just committing it to paper, making your weight loss journey official is the first step to a healthier you.

■ Set a date. Don't fall into the "I'll start next week" trap, but instead mark up small, achievable goals on your calendar. For example "I'll run three miles in one go by the end of January" or"I'll walk the dog for an hour every day this month'. Then stick to it!

■ Throw out temptation. If it isn't calling to you from the cupboards, you'll want it less. Set aside an hour for a ruthless cupboard clear-out – you can always give snacks and junk food away rather than binning it. You don't have to leave bare cupboards – fill them with healthy, hearty snacks like unsalted nuts, rice cakes, dried fruit, olives and fresh fruit and vegetable, which will curb your hunger more efficiently than junk.

■ Phone a friend. You'll be surprised at how many of your friends and family would also like to lose weight, so why not commit to working out with a buddy? You're much less likely to cancel, the time will fly by and you'll get to have a good catch up too.

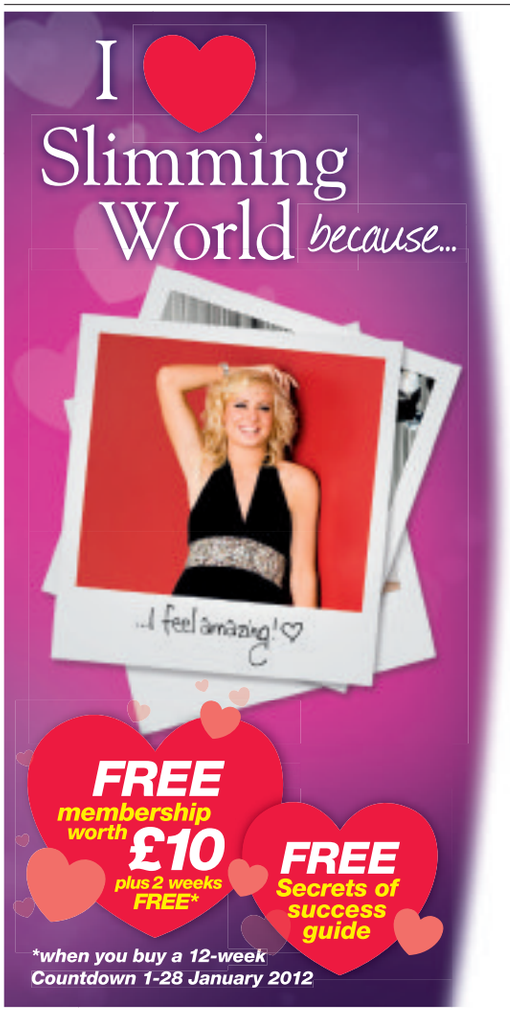
■ Trick yourself into fitness. It's a cliché, but it works – take the stairs instead of the lift, walk or cycle instead of driving, and replace watching TV with active video games. You won't need to make major changes to your life, and you'll be fitter in no time… not to mention saving petrol.

■ Eat. Yes, eating isn't the enemy here, so make sure you have a healthy breakfast and regular meals to avoid the sugar slumps guaranteed to have you reaching for the biscuit tin.

■ Smaller portions. Halve the size of your dinner and you halve the calories – it's basic maths. Whether you choose a smaller plate or fill up before with water, try to eat more slowly and really taste your food.

■ Get inspired. Whether it's fitness magazines, weight-loss programmes on TV or even a *Rocky* movie, motivate yourself with feel-good media. And an uplifting playlist is the key to a great workout.

■ Be a realist. It didn't take you a fortnight to put on a stone, so why should you expect to burn it off that quickly? Be kind to yourself, celebrate every pound lost (though not with a boozy night out!) and remember it's a gradual process. Losing weight sensibly and slowly is the healthiest method, and means you're much more likely to succeed, and keep it off.



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Tel: Diane 01353 723381

SOHAM
The Brook, Brook Street
@ 9.30am
Tel: Diane 01353 723381

TUESDAY:

LITTLEPORT
Leisure Centre, Camel Road
@ 9.30am & 6.00pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Sharon 01353 861499

ELY
Larkfield Resource Centre, High Barns
@ 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Karen 01353 661771

NEWMARKET
Ditton Lodge First School, St Johns Avenue
@ 5.45pm & 7.45pm
Tel: Sarah 01638 604947

WEDNESDAY:

ELY
Paradise Sports Centre
@ 9.30am
Tel: Diane 01353 723381

NEWMARKET
The Rutland Arms Hotel
@ 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Natalie 01638 551964

THURSDAY:

SWAFFHAM PRIOR
Village Hall @ 5.30pm & 7.00pm
Tel: Sharon 01353 861499

NEWMARKET
Our Lady & St Etheldreda Catholic Church, Exeter Road @ 9.30am
Tel: Sarah 01638 604947

RED LODGE
The Millennium Centre, Lavender Close @ 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Wendy 01638 751968

NEW CONSULTANT
HADDENHAM
Recreation Centre (next to playing field) @ 7.30pm
Tel: Barbara 07742 234355

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MAKE CHANGES 2012

Énergie Fitness: Above the HSBC Bank at 5a Buttermarket new year prices are being discounted!

Énergie converts you into fitness!

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

DURING January and February, any member who joins an énergie Fitness for Women club will have the opportunity to convert lbs into ££s!

If your new year's resolution was to shape up and feel great in time for the summer, while saving money at the same time, you'll love énergie's fantastic facilities.

Every new member can agree a target weight loss with an instructor – whether it's a just a few pounds or a complete lifestyle change – and this information is used against a rate conversion card, which will give you a certain amount off their September/October subscription if you reach that weight – it's the ultimate motivator!

The offer will apply to the first 100 ladies, so sign up today and don't delay.

To give you a helping hand, the club, which celebrated its first anniversary this autumn, is now offering Lipo Light treatments, which offer instant fat loss. The Led light therapy is a pain-free, non-invasive procedure, suitable for both men and women, and takes a mere half-an-hour to work. Phone today for a January trial session of Lipo Light, including a personal training workout, available now at a discounted price.

It's been a great year for Énergie FFW, which already has 300 members and continues to grow. Over the summer many of its dedicated staff and members walked or ran the Race for Life, raising £2,689.39 for cancer research.

The success of Énergie in changing the lives of thousands of ladies across the UK revolves around its unique six week empower programme that operates in conjunction with a 30-minute, circuit-based exercise programme.

Énergie Fitness is above the HSBC Bank at 5a Buttermarket, Ely. To find out more, call (01353) 664207 or go to *www.effw.co.uk/ely*.

Get your garden ready for the start of spring

WITH Christmas over, what better new year's resolution is there than keeping your garden tidy?

After all, it doesn't cost much, is great exercise and will give you beautiful surroundings in time for the start of spring.

A homage to nature at its best: Features such as this pond make a fine beauty spot.

Get composting

The post-Christmas period is a great time for making compost, with all those carbon-rich cards and nitrogen-rich veg peelings, in fact around 40 per cent of household waste is suitable.

You can use:

- Anything that was once living, except meat, dairy and cooked food, which can attract vermin.
- Grass cuttings and soft young weeds, which will rot quickly.
- Older and tougher plant material, which is slower to rot but gives body to the finished compost.

Make the necessary cut-backs

Early in the year, it's important to trim back, prune, and generally smarten up your garden after long, frosty nights.

Cut any dead or diseased wood, and spray trees with winter tar oil wash to deter insects. You should also prune any currants, vines and berries, and cut back your apple and pear trees. Pruning helps to encourage a good shape, and a healthy growth throughout the spring.

Grow your greens

Start thinking about your vegetable patch, in warmer weather you can sow broad beans, and now is a good time to start sprouting potatoes in a tub.

Prepare your vegetable beds by clearing away dead crops, turning the earth and raking in fertiliser or manure. Now is the time to be organised, and plan out your garden for the year ahead, so start ordering seeds, washing seed trays and sharpening tools for a busy year ahead.

Use flower power

Select a combination of flat, open flowers such as marigolds (corn marigolds, calendulas and tagetes), umbelliferae (fennel, dill and celery, say) and hoverfly-attracting plants such as alyssum, cornflower and California poppy.

Aim to achieve year-round coverage with early-, mid- and late-flowering blooms – from delicate primrose and sweet violet to fragrant lavender and wallflower to explosive coneflower and Michaelmas daisies. Seed packets always contain more than you need, so invite fellow gardeners to swap seed leftovers from last year with you.

Get the habitat habit

It's easy to boost biodiversity in your garden by creating new habitats for plants and beneficial creatures. Make it your goal to create at least one new habitat this year: it could be a pond, a hedge, a compost heap, or a patch of lawn for long grass and meadow flowers.

You'll also be helping the rest of your garden, since a plot filled with biodiversity is less likely to suffer damage from pests and diseases. Of course, nature is not a perfect friend – buy preventative controls such as carrot fly netting and slug rings now, not when the pests have struck.

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Weekly from Wednesday 11th January at 9.30 am - "The Garage" at the Lighthouse Centre (top end of chapel street) 13 Lynn Road, Ely
Weekly from Thursday 12th January at 9.00 am - "Chequer Studio" (opp. Chequer Dental Surgery) 1 Chequer Lane, Ely
To book your place please call Sophie:
07515 682 587
1 to 1 sessions also available, please call for detail

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New Year, New Course!

ELY COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

This term we have two new writing courses to offer, Creative Writing and Poetry, and Business Communications covering business letters, emails, taking minutes and CVs. Our Touch Typing and computer courses also complement these.

Our cupcake range offers something from the complete beginner to the more advanced decorating skills.

Why not pamper yourself with our Care for your Hands and Feet, offering advice and guidance on manicures and pedicures. Or indulge in our Facials and Make-up, How to Look Good course for the best possible looks for the spring. We also have Indian Head Massage and Back, Neck and Shoulder Massage to offer relaxing therapies.

Our creative skills courses offer Calligraphy, Sewing for beg/int, Silversmithing, Jewellery Making, Pottery, Watercolours, Glass Painting and Life Drawing

Do take the time to look down our list for the many courses we have on offer.

www.elycollege.com/community

Course	Day	Start	Time	Wks	Cost	Conc
60+ Keep fit Mature Movers This class is held at the Forum	Wed	11/01/12	14.00-15.00	10	£42.00	
Art Daytime	Wed	11/01/12	10.15-12.15	10	£87.00	£65.00
Back neck & Shoulder Massage	Tue	28/02/12	19.30-21.30	4	£35.00	£30.00
"Business Communications Course - Letters,emails, minutes"	Tue	10/01/12	19.00-21.00	4	£35.00	£30.00
Calligraphy	Wed	25/01/12	19.00-21.00	5	£43.50	£33.00
Computing Workshop Level 1 clait iTQ Tutor Led course	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£97.00	£77.00
Counselling Skills Introductory Level	Tue	10/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
Creative Writing & Poetry	Wed	11/01/12	19.00-21.00	5	£43.50	£32.50
Emergency First Aid at Work (Appointed Person)	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	3	£60.00	
ESOL Beginners (English for speakers of other Languages)	wed	11/01/12	19.00-20.30	10	£65.00	£49.00
ESOL Entry Level 2	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-20.30	10	£65.00	£49.00
ESOL Entry Level3	Tue	10/01/12	19.00-20.30	10	£65.00	£49.00
Facials & makeup - How to look good	Tue	28/02/12	19.00-21.00	5	£46.00	£35.00
French Beginners Term 2	Mon	09/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
French Conv Advanced	Tue	10/01/12	19.30-21.30	10	£87.00	£65.00
French Conv Intermediate	Thu	12/01/12	10.00-12.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
French conv Intermediate	Tue	10/01/12	10.00-12.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
French Improvers	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
German Beginners Term 2	Wed	11/01/12	18.30-20.00	10	£65.00	£49.00
German Improvers	Tue	10/01/12	19.30-21.00	10	£65.00	£49.00
Glass Painting	Tue	28/02/12	19.30-21.30	5	£43.50	£33.00
Healthier Food & Special Diets Level 1 includes exam fee	Tue	17/01/12	19.00-21.30	2	£35.00	
Healthier Food & Special Diets Level 2 includes exam fee	Tue	28/02/12	19.00-21.00	4	£55.00	
Indian Head Massage Beginners	Tue	10/01/12	19.30-21.30	4	£35.00	£30.00
Care for your Hands and Feet - how to perform Manicure & Pedicure	Tue	17/01/12	19.00-21.00	4	£38.00	£30.00
Italian Beginners Term 2	Tue	10/01/12	19.45-21.15	10	£65.00	£49.00
Jewellery Making Beg (additional cost for materials)	Tue	10/01/12	19.00-21.00	5	£43.50	£33.00
Jewellery Making Int (additional cost for materials)	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	5	£43.50	£33.00
Keep fit for Mature movers This class is held at the Forum	Wed	11/01/12	10.00-12.00	10	£6.50 per week	
Level 2 Award in Food Safety includes exam fee	tbc		19.00-21.00	3	£65.00	
Life Drawing extra cost for life Model (adults)	Tue	10/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
Make the Perfect Cup Cakes Beginners	Wed	22/02/12	19.00-21.00	5	£45.00	£35.00
Decorate the Perfect Cup Cakes	wed	10/01/12	19.00-21.00	5	£45.00	£35.00
Portuguese Beginners Term 2	Tue	10/01/12	19.30-21.00	10	£65.00	£49.00
Pottery	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£97.00	£77.00
Sewing for Beginners/Intermediate	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
Silversmithing (additional costs for materials)	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
Spanish Beginners Term 2	Tue	10/01/12	18.30-20.00	10	£65.00	£49.00
Spanish Beginners Term 2	Tue	10/01/12	20.00-21.30	10	£65.00	£49.00
Spanish Conversation	Wed	11/01/12	18.30-20.00	10	£65.00	£49.00
Tai Chi/Qigong Beg/Int	Thu	12/01/12	19.30-21.00	10	£65.00	£49.00
Touch Typing Professionally Tutor led course	Tue	10/01/12	19.00-21.00	6	£55.00	£45.00
Watercolour Beg/Int	Thu	12/01/12	19.00-21.00	10	£87.00	£65.00
Yoga for Beginners Please bring a mat	Tue	10/01/12	18.00-19.00	10	£43.50	£33.00
Yoga Improvers Please bring a mat	Tue	10/01/12	19.15-20.30	10	£54.50	£44.00
Zumba	Wed	11/01/12	20.15-21.15	10	£45.00	£40.00

Please book early to avoid disappointment

Courses will only run if there are sufficient learner numbers to make them viable. Courses can change throughout the year so please ring us anytime to check any new courses that may be on offer.

To enrol on a course or for further information please contact:

T. 01353 664853 or www.elycollege.com/community

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Ely
£287,500
Well presented detached home in a highly regarded part of the City. Hallway, lounge, cloakroom, kitchen/utility room, dining room, 4 bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, double garage, parking, gardens.

NEW

Witcham
£495,000
A highly individual detached family home built by the current owners in 2005 offering substantial accommodation, finished to a high specification and situated in a plot of approx. 1/4 acre (sts)

NEW

Ely
£279,950
A well presented home overlooking a green area. Hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining/family room, kitchen/breakfast room, 4 bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, gardens, car port, garage.

NEW

Ely
£400,000
Situated in a central City location this established detached home on a plot of approximately a third of an acre has planning permission to be extended into a substantial City home.

NEW

Sutton
£127,500
A superbly presented first floor apartment with hallway, inner hallway, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms & bathroom. The property also has allocated parking & use of a communal garden/play area.

NEW PRICE

Little Downham
£399,950
An extensive 4 bedroom (2 ensuite) detached home with 3 receptions in a semi-rural location in grounds of approx 2 acres with outstanding fenland views & with equestrian potential.

Ely
£129,950
This centrally located City home is in need of modernisation and improvement with accommodation comprising lounge/kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, gas heating and garden.

NEW PRICE

Stretham
£130,000
A period 1 bedroom detached cottage in need of modernisation but retaining a wealth of character features with attractive gardens, driveway & garage. No upward chain.

NEW

Little Downham
£141,500
A modern end terrace property ideally suited to first time buyers or investment purchasers. Hall cloakroom, kitchen, lounge/dining room, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, gardens, parking & carport.

NEW

Haddenham
£135,950
A modern chalet style home lose to the village centre. Hallway, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, study/bedroom 3, conservatory, 2 first floor bedrooms, bathroom, single garage, parking & gardens

Littleport
£154,950
Modern semi-detached home in a small cul-de-sac. Hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, 3 bedrooms (1 ensuite), replacement d. glazing, gas c. heating, driveway, garage, gardens.

NEW

Soham
£149,950
Well presented modern semi close to the town centre. Hall, modern kitchen, lounge, superb conservatory/dining room, 3 bedrooms, modern bathroom, low maintenance gardens & parking.

Little Downham
£295,000
A substantial 4 double bedroom, 3 reception room, detached home situated in a pleasant non estate location with driveway, large double garage and gardens. No upward chain.

Haddenham
£239,950
A Grade II Listed house situated close to the centre of this popular village, in need of modernisation throughout with 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, double garage, gardens. No chain.

Mepal
£207,500
A well presented detached bungalow in a highly regarded location. Hall, lounge, conservatory, dining room/bed 3, 2 further bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, single garage, driveway, gardens.

Littleport
£145,000
A brand new 2 bedroom detached house close the centre of this popular village. Hallway, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge/dining room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking & garden.

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ALLEN ROAD, ELY
£1,250 pcm
Spacious and well presented four bedroom detached home with gas heating, double glazing, enclosed garden and garage.

WESTGATE STREET, SOUTHERY
£1,150 pcm
Spacious four bedroom house with many original features, large garden, paddock with stabling and a tack room. Available mid January.

CITY ROAD, LITTLEPORT
£1,100 pcm
Brand new four bedroom house with enclosed rear garden, garage and driveway. Available now. Two properties available.

LYNN ROAD, SOUTHERY
£1,000 pcm
Five bedroom, four reception room farmhouse with extensive gardens, driveway and garaging for several further vehicles.

HILLS LANE, ELY
£950 pcm
Well presented three bedroom detached chalet style bungalow within close proximity of the City centre with large enclosed rear garden and driveway. Available now.

FIELD END, WITCHFORD
£895 pcm
Modern detached four bedroom house in this popular village with gas heating, garden, garage and parking. Available mid January.

MEADOW WAY, ELY
£850 pcm
Modern and very well presented three bedroom house with two reception rooms, ensuite to master, garden, garage and carport. Available now.

GATEWAY GARDENS, ELY
£750 pcm
Modern three bedroom end of terrace townhouse with ensuite to master, garden to rear and allocated parking. Available now.

ELY ROAD, WITCHAM TOLL
£750 pcm
Detached three bedroom house approximately 5 miles from Ely with gas central heating, good-sized enclosed rear garden, single garage, sheds and driveway.

BUCKTHORN, ELY
£750 pcm
Modern and well presented three bedroom house close to City centre with gas central heating, enclosed garden and off road parking. Available now.

HIGH STREET, SUTTON
£695 pcm
Modern and very well presented three bedroom house, newly decorated throughout, with gas heating, enclosed garden, garage and driveway.

PEACOCK WAY, LITTLEPORT
£695 pcm
Newly refurbished semi detached three bedroom house close to the town centre and within walking distance of the rail station. Available now.

STATION ROAD, TEN MILE BANK
£650 pcm
Brand new three bedroom semi detached house in a rural location with oil heating, double glazing, large rear garden, carport and driveway.

CLAY STREET, SOHAM
£595 pcm
End of terrace three bedroom cottage situated close to the town centre with gas central heating, double glazing and enclosed courtyard garden. Available now.

WISBECH ROAD, LITTLEPORT
£575 pcm
Newly refurbished detached two bedroom detached bungalow in a rural location with oil central heating, garden and off road parking. Available now.

WISBECH ROAD, WELNEY
£550 pcm
Detached three bedroom bungalow in a rural location with two reception rooms, large gardens and off road parking. Available mid January

MILL CORNER, SOHAM
£550 pcm
Three bedroom terraced cottage with two reception rooms, garden to rear and gas central heating. Available late January

VERMUYDEN GARDENS, SUTTON
£500 pcm
Modern terraced two bedroom house in a cul-de-sac location with electric heating, enclosed garden and two allocated parking spaces. Available now.

STATION ROAD, SOHAM
£495 pcm
Two bedroom first floor flat, neutrally decorated throughout, close to the centre of the town with gas central heating. Available mid April.

BIRCH CLOSE, ELY
£495 pcm
One bedroom house close to City centre with electric heating and shared garden area. Available mid January.

For your next move find it at www.HomesNOW.co.uk

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Soham £395

Lovely one bedroom bungalow offering stylish and affordable accommodation.
- Available 07/02/2012
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 595

Soham £475

Ground floor two bedroom flat in a central location offering spacious accommodation.
- Available Now
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 725

Ely £525

Modern one bedroom flat located in a popular area of Ely with easy access to Cambridge, Newmarket and Kings Lynn.
- Available 30/01/2012
- Furnished
- Deposit 825

Stretham £575

Neat and tidy 2 bedroom modern terrace home, situated in this well regarded village offering local pub & primary education
- Available 30/01/2012
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 825

Soham £575

Pretty Victorian style terrace two bedroom home, yet deceptively modern and spacious internally. Located in the sought after village of Soham.
- Available 21/01/2012
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 875

Sutton £595

Nearly new detached house with two double bedrooms situated in popular village.
- Available 07/02/2012
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 900

AVAILABLE NOW

Little Thetford £695

Beautifully presented modern semi detached home (newly redecorated and recarpeted) located in a prime quite cul-de-sac location
- Available Now
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 1050

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AVAILABLE NOW

Soham £595

Beautifully presented!
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- Available Now
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 975

AVAILABLE NOW

Haddenham £650

Delightful bungalow presented to the highest of standards located in a quiet cul de sac in the sought after and well served village of Haddenham
- Available 23/11/2011
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 975

NEW

Ely £695

Stunning property located just a stones throw from the City centre, river and mainline rail station (Kings Lynn/Kings Cross line).
- Available 23/01/12 to be confirmed
- Unfurnished
- Deposit 1050

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Sudoku

5		8	1	7				6
9	2			6	3			
3						2		
	5	1		2		7	3	
		6						9
			3	1			8	2
8				4	6	3		1

Supplied by www.FranticPuzzles.com

9	4	6	1	5	8	7	3	2
2	8	3	4	7	6	5	1	9
5	1	7	3	2	9	8	6	4
4	9	1	7	6	5	3	2	8
7	5	2	8	3	4	6	9	1
6	3	8	2	9	1	4	7	5
8	2	4	6	1	7	9	5	3
3	7	9	5	8	2	1	4	6
1	6	5	9	4	3	2	8	7

Solution from December 22.

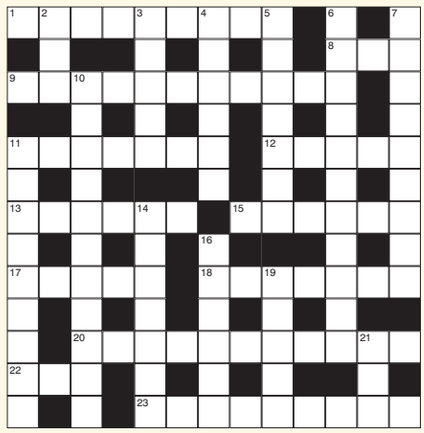
		5	1				6	2
	6		5		9			
	1	3				7	9	
	3			1			5	8
			6		5			
7			9	4			2	
	8	6					7	
			3		7			6
5	2	7			8	1		

2	4	8	3	7	1	6	5	9
7	1	3	6	9	5	8	2	4
9	6	5	4	8	2	3	7	1
6	7	4	5	1	8	9	3	2
3	9	1	7	2	4	5	6	8
8	5	2	9	6	3	1	4	7
1	2	7	8	5	6	4	9	3
4	8	6	2	3	9	7	1	5
5	3	9	1	4	7	2	8	6

Solution from December 22.

Don't miss your Cambridge News every Wednesday for a fantastic four-page pullout packed with puzzles and quizzes

Crossword



Cryptic clues

Across

1. Engulf bird in the air (7,2)
8. Vehicle in precarious position (3)
9. Mark on letter spoken of in sepulchral tones? (5,6)
11. Could its odour make worshippers angry? (7)
12. Eat away part of the rod, evidently (5)
13. Party leader could be nicer to royal person (6)
15. Be there for a teetotal finish... (6)
17. ...because offence takes only a half cent (5)
18. Because she's cold? (7)
20. Change heading in menu? (5,6)
22. There's nothing in this selection I like (3)
23. The elders gave protection (9)

Down

2. Green is up to open hostility (3)
3. What late riser has, that is with 22 getting up around! (3-2)
4. Evil – like a candle? (6)
5. Tense gift (7)
6. Be in the same cast and work in harmony (3,8)
7. For one who makes spurious claims, rep is oddly affectionate (9)
10. Where lots will get knocked down (7,4)
11. Incidentally, when overtaking... (2,7)
14. ...makes something new of set race (7)
16. Make somebody pay for the attack (6)
19. Concerning a sailor abroad (5)
21. Observe what the bishop is responsible for (3)

Quick clues

Across

1. Accused (9)
8. Poem (3)
9. Drying up (11)
11. Picture (7)
12. Dagger (5)
13. Disquiet (6)
15. Flag (6)
17. Seat (5)
18. Stern (7)
20. Intolerantly (11)
22. Self (3)
23. Reckless (9)

Down

2. Before (3)
3. Elbow (5)
4. Alarm bell (6)
5. Sparkle (7)
6. Delivery (11)
7. Retribution (9)
10. Winter sleep (11)
11. Shortened (9)
14. Streaked (7)
16. Beam (6)
19. Alacrity (5)
21. Garland (3)

Solution from December 22 – Cryptic clues across: 1 Rifle; 4 Cheques; 8 Chasers; 9 Drill; 10 Posy; 11 Down to it; 13 Grip; 14 Seam; 16 Notaries; 17 Apse; 20 Owing; 21 Special; 22 Magenta; 23 Sprag. **Down:** 1 Reception room; 2 Flaws; 3 Ewes; 4 Castor; 5 Endanger; 6 Uniform; 7 Salute the flag; 12 Nitrogen; 13 Getting; 15 Red Sea; 18 Prior; 19 Less. **Quick clues across:** 1 Upper; 4 Contend; 8 Curtail; 9 Irons; 10 Null; 11 Donation; 13 Beer; 14 Scan; 16 Renounce; 17 Wide; 20 Beast; 21 Elegant; 22 Echelon; 23 Dread. **Down:** 1 Unconquerable; 2 Peril; 3 Real; 4 Callow; 5 Nuisance; 6 Emotion; 7 Disinterested; 12 Rebuttal; 13 Beneath; 15 Screen; 18 Inane; 19 Head.

Looking for leaflet distribution that works and always hits your targets?

Heading for the borders

IF your borders lack colour, texture and depth, then it's an ideal time to plan a new one to give you all-year-round colour, beautifully matched plants and a few surprises along the way.

Don't be afraid to copy others' ideas. You may need to visit a National Trust garden or simply look for inspiration closer to home, seeking out ideas by peeking into neighbouring gardens or simply asking keen gardening friends how they achieved a particular effect which you want to replicate.

Take a camera and notebook with you so that you can take pictures of particular scenes, so you don't just rely on your memory.

Alternatively, cut out pictures from magazines and cover them with tracing paper, drawing on the key plant shapes you like. You may not be able to use exactly the same plants that you have admired in a magazine, but it will give you an idea of what works shape and height-wise.

When planning, ensure that the border provides year-round interest, not just a mass of blooms in summer which leaves the area looking dull and boring in winter.

Brighten up spring with bulbs and make use of evergreens and shrubs with coloured bark or berries in autumn and winter to prolong interest and keep a shape to the border.

by Hannah Stephenson

While summer can be a riot of colour, trees and shrubs provide a framework to the border, some structure on which to build seasonal displays. They can also be used individually to create a particular effect such as a focal point.

Of course, the first consideration is your soil – is it acid or alkaline, is your aspect light or shady, is the ground dry or moist? Again, consider plants which have done well in your neighbours' gardens because they are also likely to do well in yours.

If you want a tree or shrub to add height to a border, use a tripod of canes which can be moved around to give you an idea of where the new addition will fit in best and when choosing a tree, consider its rate of growth and ultimate size. You don't want it dominating the border and casting shade over some of your more colourful sun-lovers later in the season.

Try to keep the planting design simple, choosing perhaps large interlocking drifts of plants rather than a mismatched smorgasbord of a lot of little plants which you've bought on a whim but which don't really complement each other.

Consider a themed border for compatible plants, such as a Mediterranean border, or a border with one type of plant such as herbs, which can be intermingled successfully.

Think about repetition in your border as using a particular plant repeatedly makes a particularly showy plant stand out and also helps merge a diverse display.

Alliums, with their stunning lollipop-shaped clusters of flowers, can provide a showy display repeated at points along a border, but any repetition will help give the border more visual uniformity.

If you haven't particularly thought about colour, do so now, and use a colour wheel to judge which colours go best together.

Do you want a sizzling clash for a dramatic, hot effect, or a softer palette of colours closer in shades such as pinks and mauves, which will merge together beautifully in the border?

Use a few large, architectural plants such as phormiums or fatsias to create a dramatic effect, rather than lots of fussy, small plants. Position plants, still in their pots, so you can stand back and view the effect from several angles and move them if you need to.

GAINING THE EDGE: A few large architectural plants can create a dramatic effect.

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THE GUIDE | WEEKEND TV

SATURDAY

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.
11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. Meatballs and a pudding.
12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
12.15 Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests preview the FA Cup third round, and review the week's league action.
1.00 Live Great Edinburgh Cross Country 2012. Coverage of the annual event at Holyrood Park.
2.30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The afternoon session on the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, where Martin Adams v Scott Mitchell is among the first-round matches.
4.30 Final Score.
5.15 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
5.35 Winter Wipeout.
6.35 The Magicians. New series. Darren McMullen presents the magic contest in a new live format.
7.50 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. New series.
8.40 Casualty. As the refurbished ED opens for the first time since the fire, the staff are stretched to their limits.
10.00 BBC News; Weather; (C) National Lottery Update.
10.20 FILM: Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995). Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis and Samuel L Jackson
12.20 FILM: AWOL: Absent Without Leave (1990).

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies: Little Robots. 6.10 The Adventures of Abney & Teal. 6.25 Raa Raa the Noisy Lion. 6.35 Octonauts. 6.45 Mike the Knight. 7.00 CBBC: Richard Hammond's Blast Lab. 7.30 Dennis and Gnasher. 7.40 The Scooby-Doo Show. 8.05 Pixelface. 8.35 Prank Patrol Down Under. 9.00 Deadly 60. 9.30 Serious Explorers: Raleigh. 10.00 Animals at Work. 10.30 Trapped Ever After. 10.55 Hacker Time. 11.25 OOglies. 11.40 MOTD Kickabout.
12.00 FILM: Nobody Runs Forever (1968). Spy thriller, starring Rod Taylor.
1.40 FILM: Duel in the Sun (1946). Western, starring Gregory Peck.
3.45 Escape to the Country.
4.30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Further coverage of the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club.
5.35 FILM: Jason and the Argonauts (1963). Fantasy adventure.
7.15 Flog It!
7.45 John Howard Davies: A Life in Comedy. Tribute to the TV producer and director.
8.00 The Good Life.
8.30 Steptoe and Son.
9.00 Fawlty Towers.
9.30 Comedy Connections. The story of Monty Python.
10.00 Big Hits: TOTP 1964 to 1975.
11.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. Highlights
12.20 Darts Extra.
2.20 FILM: Devils of Darkness (1965). Horror.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV.
9.25 ITV News and Weather.
9.30 FILM: The Perfect Man (2005). Romantic comedy, with Hilary Duff and Heather Locklear. (T)
11.25 This Morning: Saturday.
12.25 Murder, She Wrote. First part of the pilot episode.
1.25 ITV News and Weather
1.45 FILM: Catwoman (2004). Superhero adventure, starring Halle Berry.
3.40 FILM: Jurassic Park (1993). Action adventure, starring Sam Neill.
6.00 Anglia News and Weather.
6.15 ITV News and Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Featuring a dog with a light sabre.
7.00 Harry Hill's TV Burp. More of the show's funniest moments.
7.30 Take Me Out. New series.
8.30 The Talent Show Story. New series. Exploring the history of televised talent contests.
9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. In the host's first chat show of 2012, John Bishop talks about becoming one of Britain's best-loved stand-up comics, and Wonders of the Universe presenter Brian Cox discusses his transformation from former pop star to fronting some of TV's most popular science programmes. Also with American singer Lana Del Rey.
10.30 ITV News and Weather.
10.45 Celebrity Juice.
11.30 FA Cup Football Highlights.
1.00 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.

CHANNEL 4

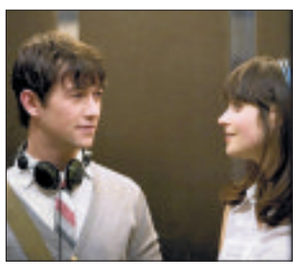
6.00 The Treacle People. 6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 The Grid. 7.25 GT Academy. 7.55 The Morning Line.
8.55 T4: Hollyoaks Best Bits 2011. 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. 10.55 The Simpsons. 11.30 New Girl.
12.10 FILM: T4: California Man (1992). Teen comedy, starring Brendan Fraser.
1.55 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Wincanton.
4.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. The first of four dinner parties from Blackpool. Also 4.30, 5 and 5.35
6.05 Channel 4 News.
6.35 4thought.tv.
6.40 FILM: Big Momma's House 2 (2006). Comedy sequel.
8.30 The Bank Job. The grand final of the game show based in the vault of a London bank sees the winners from the five previous programmes return, armed with the money they accumulated after being tested on their knowledge, judgement and luck.
10.00 FILM: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004). Sporting comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn.
11.50 FILM: LA Confidential (1997). Thriller set in the 1950s, with Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce.
2.15 A Ninja Is for Life, Not Just for Christmas.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Fireman Sam. 6.40 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 6.50 Castle Farm. 6.55 Igam Ogam.7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. 7.15 The Milkshake! Show. 7.35 Make Way for Noddy. 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. 8.00 Little Princess. 8.15 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. 8.30 Angelina Ballerina. 8.50 Rupert Bear. 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. 9.15 The Mr Men Show. 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. 9.40 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. 10.00 Meerkat Manor. 10.30 The Hotel Inspector.
11.30 Celebrity Big Brother.
12.30 FILM: The Slipper and the Rose (1976). Musical version of Cinderella, with Gemma Craven.
3.10 FILM: From Here to Eternity (1953). WW2 drama, starring Burt Lancaster.
5.30 FILM: While You Were Sleeping (1995). Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock.
7.30 5 News Weekend.
7.35 NCIS.
8.30 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights.
9.45 FILM: Philadelphia (1993). A gay lawyer fights to prove his ex-employers discriminated against him because he has Aids. Oscar winning drama, starring Tom Hanks.
12.05 SuperCasino.

Casualty
BBC1, Saturday, 8.40pm.

Dancing On Ice
ITV1, Sunday, 6.30pm.



(500) Days of Summer
Channel 4, Sunday, 9pm.

Celebrity Big Brother
Channel 5, Saturday, 8.30pm, Sunday, 10pm.

SUNDAY

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00 The Big Questions. New series.
11.00 Country Tracks. (C) Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.00 BBC News; Weather.
12.05 EastEnders. Omnibus.
2.00 Bargain Hunt. Extended edition. Four teams compete in Derby.
3.00 Escape to the Country. A couple search for a dream home in Shropshire.
4.00 The Royal Bodyguard. Comedy, starring David Jason. Also 4.30
5.00 Songs of Praise. Dan Walker previews 2012's major national events.
5.35 Celebrity Mastermind. With seven-time Paralympic champion Sarah Storey, Radio 1 DJ Nihal Arthanayake, former England manager Glenn Hoddle, Football Focus presenter Dan Walker and financial guru Martin Lewis. Last in the series.
6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.30 Countryfile. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.30 Antiques Roadshow.
8.30 Sherlock.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 The One Lenny Henry. Guest staring Ronni Ancona, Omid Djalili and Peter Serafinowicz
11.05 FILM: Grumpy Old Men (1993). Comedy, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.
12.45 The Sky at Night.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies: Little Robots. 6.10 The Adventures of Abney & Teal. 6.25 Raa Raa the Noisy Lion. 6.35 Octonauts. 6.45 Mike the Knight. 7.00 CBBC: Richard Hammond's Blast Lab. 7.30 Dennis and Gnasher. 7.40 The Scooby-Doo Show; The Owl. 8.05 Paradise Cafe. 8.30 Wingin' It; (C) Diddy Dick & Dom. 9.00 Friday Download.
10.00 Something for the Weekend.
11.30 FILM: One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing (1975).
1.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The second day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green.
4.45 Ski Sunday. New series.
5.30 Flog It! From Rochester in Kent.
6.00 How to Build a Nuclear Submarine. Documentary exploring three British engineering companies, beginning with the construction of HMS Astute, the Royal Navy's biggest attack submarine.
7.00 Top Gear.
8.00 Great Barrier Reef.
9.00 To Boldly Go – Down. Part one of two. Kevin Fong explains why mankind can only live on less than a quarter of the surface of Earth, and explores technologies that help humans survive underwater.
10.00 FILM: Adventureland (2009). Comedy, with Jesse Eisenberg.
11.40 Darts: BDO World Championships.
12.30 Darts Extra.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV.
9.25 ITV News and Weather
9.30 FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from the third round.
11.00 Dancing on Ice Live Tour 2011. Highlights from last year's arena event.
12.00 ITV News and Weather.
12.05 You've Been Framed!
12.30 Live FA Cup Football. Manchester City v Manchester United (Kick-off 1.00pm) and Peterborough United v Sunderland (Kick-off 3.30pm).
6.00 Anglia News and Weather.
6.15 ITV News and Weather.
6.30 Dancing on Ice. Christine Bleakley, pictured, takes over as Phillip Schofield's co-host.
8.30 Wild at Heart. New series. Following the loss of Leopard's Den, only Danny and Du Plessis remain in South Africa, desperate to raise enough money to buy a new reserve. Pregnant Alice arrives from the UK unannounced.
9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off.
10.00 That Sunday Night Show. New series. Adrian Chiles is joined by comedian Ross Noble, Downton Abbey star Dan Stevens (Matthew Crawley) and Gemma Collins from The Only Way Is Essex.
10.30 ITV News and Weather
10.45 FA Cup Football Highlights.
11.45 Premiership Rugby Union.
12.45 The Zone. Shopping and interactive gaming; ITV News headlines.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. 6.30 The Hoobs.
6.55 Freesports on 4.
7.20 Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show.
7.45 T4: One Tree Hill. 8.40 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. 11.10 The Big Bang Theory. 11.45 Shipwrecked: The Island.
12.50 FILM: T4: Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998). Romantic drama, starring Drew Barrymore and Dougray Scott.
3.10 T4: The Simpsons. Homer is forced to attend Alcoholics Anonymous.
3.40 T4: The Simpsons.
4.15 Deal or No Deal.
5.15 Channel 4 News.
5.45 4thought.tv.
5.50 FILM: The Devil Wears Prada (2006). Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep.
8.00 The Hotel. Mark Jenkins, manager of Torquay's Grosvenor Hotel, decides to rekindle his childhood passion for entertaining by hosting a party night for the establishment's guests. However, his dreams of success look set to be dashed.
9.00 FILM: (500) Days of Summer (2009). Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel.
10.50 FILM: Employee of the Month (2006). Comedy, with Dane Cook and Dax Shepard.
12.50 Comic's Choice: Jessica Hynes.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Fireman Sam. 6.40 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 6.50 Castle Farm. 6.55 Igam Ogam. 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. 7.15 The Milkshake! Show. 7.30 Mio Mao. 7.35 Make Way for Noddy. 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. 8.00 Little Princess. 8.20 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. 8.35 Angelina Ballerina. 8.50 Rupert Bear. 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. 9.15 The Mr MenShow. 9.25 Milkshake! Monkey. 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. 9.40 Mist:Sheepdog Tales. 10.00 Animal Rescue Squad. 10.15 Meerkat Manor. 10.45 Grey's Anatomy. 11.45 Celebrity Big Brother.
12.55 FILM: Return to Oz (1985). Fantasy adventure.
3.00 FILM: Candleshoe (1977). Disney comedy.
5.00 5 News Weekend.
5.05 FILM: Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes (1984). Drama, starring Christopher Lambert.
7.40 FILM: SWAT (2003). Action thriller, with Samuel L Jackson. Includes 5 News Update at 8.35pm.
10.00 Celebrity Big Brother.
11.00 FILM: Reservoir Dogs (1992).
1.00 SuperCasino.

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Welcome to the Summit

Cambridge Saab will stay 'Saab specialist'

CAMBRIDGE SAAB general manager James Howarth has pledged to continue as a "Saab specialist" following the news that Saab has filed for bankruptcy in Sweden, *writes Mike Scialom.*

The Swedish firm has been in difficulties for some time but Howarth was at pains to point out that Saab GB is still functioning.

"Saab Great Britain, with whom we have our contract, are still in 'administration' only," Howarth says of the current situation, "and are therefore technically still functioning."

The Harston-based showroom remains open for business and is expected to honour all existing warranty and servicing agreements. It is also believed that the dealership will continue to sell new Saabs (while stocks last): used Saab sales are expected to continue uninterrupted.

Howarth expressed sorrow about the developments in Sweden but added: "We can at least now move on, initially setting our stall out to remain very much as a 'Saab specialist' if we cannot be the 'Saab dealer'."

It is understood that Cambridge Saab's owners, Trumpington-based Buckingham & Stanley, are looking to add a new franchise to sit alongside the Chevrolet dealership which opened its doors earlier this year in Trumpington.

It is still possible that Saab will find a buyer, but if the plan fails it will be the end of the road for the ambitious plans for 2012 which the Swedish firm had put in place since being taken over by Dutch car maker Spyker a year ago.

Cambridge Saab: Set to remain a Saab specialist.

Jeep prices the high-performing Grand Cherokee SRT8 and Overland Summit

JUST five months after the successful launch in the UK of the internationally acclaimed new Grand Cherokee 4x4, Jeep has announced pricing of the eagerly awaited high performance SRT8 and premium Overland Summit versions.

The best-performing Jeep ever, the exciting new Grand Cherokee SRT8 (Street and Racing Technology – the sports arm of Chrysler Group) offers a unique blend of legendary capability and utility, head-turning SRT performance and an impressive suite of advanced technologies. The SRT8 can accelerate to 60mph in 4.8 seconds, has a top speed of 160mph, and brakes from 60-0mph in just 116 feet.

Powering the 2012 Grand Cherokee SRT8 is Chrysler Group's awe-inspiring new 6,424cc HEMI V8 with Fuel Saver Technology that delivers 470bhp and 465lb ft of torque – an improvement of 50bhp and 45lb ft torque over the 6.1-litre HEMI V8 it replaces.

At £58,995, the 2012 SRT8 is the ultimate performance SUV and slots perfectly into the line-up as the premium sports performance version of this celebrated brand's flagship Grand Cherokee model.

The New Overland Summit, meanwhile, elevates Grand Cherokee to new levels of luxury and refinement in the premium sport-utility vehicle sector. It is priced at £44,795.

Powered by a 237bhp, 2,987cc V6 CRD diesel engine, the Overland Summit's real wood and distinctive polished trim surround passengers with the highest levels of craftsmanship. Wood trim is used on the leather-wrapped, heated steering wheel.

The Grand Cherokee Overland Summit boasts a black lower and saddle upper interior trim colour, along with saddle-coloured Nappa heated and ventilated leather seats and Berber floor mats with black and chestnut accent binding.

Among the huge list of standard equipment on the Overland Summit is the Advanced Warning System and Adaptive Cruise Control group, which consists of Adaptive Cruise Control, Forward Collision Warning, Blind Spot Monitoring and Rear Cross-path detection systems.

Inside: Distinctive from every point of view.

Hondas most resilient to pothole damage

HONDA cars are the most resilient to pothole damage, saving drivers hundreds of pounds in repairs each year, according to new research by Potholes.co.uk.

The road maintenance campaign website, set up by the UK's leading warranty provider Warranty Direct, analysed tens of thousands of policies to reveal the cars most and least susceptible to the nation's biggest bugbear – potholes. This winter, UK roads are set to become the worst "in a generation".

After Honda, the most "pothole-proof" manufacturers are Toyota and Hyundai, with less than 2 per cent of their cars suffering axle and suspension damage attributable to potholes and other road defects.

Conversely, Chrysler, Mercedes-Benz and Land Rover models are the most likely to be defeated by the UK's pothole-riddled roads, with more than 10 per cent suffering damage each year.

The Honda Jazz: Part of a successful pothole-beating range.

While the average payout for pothole-induced suspension damage is £309, Warranty Direct and Potholes.co.uk have indentified recent claims as high as £2,420.

Duncan McClure Fisher, of Warranty Direct, said: "With last year's road damage barely dealt with, a repeat of those harsh winter weather conditions could see our highways deteriorate to the worst state they've been in for a generation.

"As councils struggle to solve the pothole problem, consumers can at least be smart about their vehicle of choice. We've found some cars have an uncanny ability to absorb the jolts from even the most severe road craters, while others aren't so resilient.

"Particularly surprising is that high-end manufacturers are just as vulnerable, if not more so, than 'value' manufacturers. However, we wouldn't lambast those at the bottom of the pile because the roads are just so bad."

Anyone can report a road defect and share their story using Potholes.co.uk, which has contact details for councils across England, Scotland and Wales.

Top 10 most resilient manufacturers

(Chance of pothole induced suspension damage in an average year)

Make	Incident rate
1. HONDA	1.4%
2. TOYOTA	1.5%
3. HYUNDAI	1.7%
4. NISSAN	2.0%
5. KIA	2.1%
6. MITSUBISHI	2.2%
7. MINI	3.0%
8. SUZUKI	3.1%
9. FORD	3.4%
10. MAZDA	3.4%

Top 10 least resilient manufacturers

Make	Incident rate
1. CHRYSLER	12.2%
2. SMART	10.6%
3. MERCEDES-BENZ	10.4%
4. LANDROVER	10.1%
5. JAGUAR	9.4%
6. SAAB	8.5%
7. FIAT	7.4%
8. BMW	6.8%
9. SEAT	6.6%
10. VAUXHALL	6.4%

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Fuel consumption figures for Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 - 61.4 (12.2 - 4.6), Extra Urban 40.4 - 67.3 (7.0 - 4.2), Combined 32.5 - 64.2 (8.7 - 4.4). CO_2 emissions: 201 – 101 g/km.

Models shown: Jazz 1.4 ES Manual in Azure Blue Metallic at £13,935, CR-V 2.0 ES Manual in Urban Titanium Metallic at £24,235, Insight IMA EX in Spectrum White Pearl at £21,435 and CR-Z IMA Sport in Premium White Pearl at £19,175. **Terms and Conditions:** Offers valid on new retail CR-V, Jazz (including Jazz Hybrid), 11YM Insight and CR-Z models ordered from 16 December 2011 to 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012. Offers applicable at participating Dealers and are at the Promoter's absolute discretion. **Servicing:** Four years complimentary servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of four services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only. **4th Year Extended Guarantee:** Additional coverage extends the original Standard Warranty to 4 years / 120,000 miles (whichever occurs first), and will Guarantee the vehicle is free from material and manufacturing defects (mechanical and electrical items only, excludes items which can be expected to wear). **Road Tax:** *Jazz/11YM Insight/CR-Z - monetary amount equivalent to the cost of Road Tax (Vehicle Excise Duty) for the first three years of the vehicle's life will be paid at time of purchase at the prevailing rates of First Year and Subsequent Year VED. CR-V - monetary amount equivalent to the cost of Road Tax (Vehicle Excise Duty) for the first year of the vehicle's life will be paid at time of purchase at the prevailing rate. **Insurance contribution:** Monetary amount of £300 will be paid at time of purchase as a contribution to insurance costs. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement, you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum permitted mileage of 10,000 per annum has not been exceeded. LOVE HEARTS ®, © SWIZZELS MATLOW LTD.

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07976 641759

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4 door hatchback, manual, petrol, 2003, Black, 51,000 miles, ABS, A\C, Alarm, Alloys, CD, Climate, E/W, P/S, Tow bar, 12 months MOT, FSH, very good condition
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07989 805832

Audi Cabriolet
2.6E V6 Final Edition, petrol, 1998, 67,900 miles, FSH, manual, recent Audi service, full MOT, taxed to 08/12, mustard with black roof, half leather, charcoal cloth, Ipod ready, Alpine system, private plate included, 225, 40, 18 tyres, 15 spoke alloys, red ceramic brakes
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07864 277789

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BMW 316 TI SE
Petrol, 2002, manual, 114,000 miles, Alarm, Climate, Cruise Control, E/W, PAS, MOT October 2012, taxed end May 2012, unmarked alloy wheels, air bags, ESP, fog lights, rear parking sensors, steering wheel controls, next service is in 11k, excellent condition
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07805 448370

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07780 681256 (e)

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£12,000

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01763 243513
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£3,795 ono

01440 707121
07777 606792

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01480 383361

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01767 679110
07973 840349

Peugeot 206 1.4 SW Estate

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£2,750

01767 679110
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2007, 3 door hatchback, 46,000 miles, Metallic Blue, Black leather interior,17" Alloys, A\C, Radio/CD, Cruise control, Directional lights, Traction control, Taxed & MOT to June 2012, FSH, Excellent Condition

£4,750 ono

01223 835166

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Peugeot 306

2001, Red, 124,511 miles, Tax 30/9/12, MOT 8/9/12 no advisories

£1,000

07788 620554
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Peugeot

Peugeot SW 307

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01440 708613

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Volkswagen

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Volkswagen

Volkswagen Golf

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Classifieds Index

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9 AGRICULTURE & FARMING
10 BUSINESS SERVICES
11 SITUATIONS VACANT
12 PROPERTY
13 PUBLIC NOTICES

5 EASY WAYS TO ADVERTISE

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3 HOMES

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» Road running

Gunby calls shots as he leads home a record field . . .

A RECORD turn-out saw 579 runners complete Ely Runners' 2011 New Year's Eve 10k at Little Downham.

In the men's race, two runners dominated with Matt Gunby (Woodford Green AC) eventually outfinishing the Grunty Fen Half Marathon winner Aaron Scott (Notts AC) in a time of 30min 40sec. These two were nearly two minutes ahead of Paul Miles (Anglia Ruskin University) in third place.

In the women's race, previous winner Felicity Milton (Woodford Green & Essex Ladies) powered home in 34min 52sec.

In second place in 35.28 was former Ely Runner Claire Hallissey (Bristol & West) returning to run in the event.

Since leaving the area, Hallissey's running has improved immeasurably and her decision to focus on longer distances has resulted in her already qualifying to represent Great Britain in the marathon at this year's Olympic Games in London.

Several Ely Runners also put in impressive performances with Tom Bracegirdle running for his first claim club Muddy Mucky Munkeys, coming home in sixth place.

The club's performance of the day went to Ashley Pettit, whose time of 35.06 not only enabled him to finish 13th place but it also helped him to achieve a new club record for juniors.

Gary Wilberforce continues to run well and Graham Chapman finished the race despite being unwell throughout.

Lesley Wright and Brent Crossman both achieved new personal bests.

Mark Turner was spotted in full Santa costume pushing a buggy for the full 10k.

» Bowls

Trophy delight: The City of Ely ladies over-60s' team that has reached the last eight of the Mason Trophy. They are, left to right, Sara Matthews, Carolyn Day, Audrey Knott, Pauline Turner, Janet Beckson, Margaret Reeder, Jan Lowe, Hilda David. CP

City ladies march into quarter-final

AFTER 10 years of entering a team in the national inter-club competition for the Mason Trophy, City of Ely's double rink of over-60s ladies have reached the last eight for the first time.

Travelling to Northampton, they faced a team from Gloucester in the last 16 last Thursday.

In a nail-biting match, Gloucester led marginally for most of the first 14 ends, but Ely drew level with a score of 26 shots each.

On the 15th end, however, Ely scored seven shots only to see the advantage reduced to four by the conclusion of the 19th.

Both Ely rinks dropped shots on the next end to trail by one going into the final end of the match.

Superb play saw both rinks pick up three shots each, which resulted in a final score of 43-38 and a win for Ely.

Ely's captain Margaret Reeder said: "It was an exciting game. I am very proud that we have won six matches this year to reach this stage and we hope to go further.

"Our goal is to be back at Northampton in the final on February 14."

In the next round they will play either Diss or Desborough. The match must be played before the end of January.

Scores (Ely names first): Hilda David, Pauline Turner, Margaret Reeder, Jan Lowe 17, Gloucester 25. Carolyn Day, Janet Beckson, Audrey Knott, Sara Matthews 26, Gloucester 13.

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» **Football:** Round-up of all the festive holiday action from Julius Martin Lane and the Unwin Ground

Goalmouth action: Mildenhall goalkeeper Josh Pope and his defenders are on the alert as Richard Chadwick, who later scored the winner, fires in a shot for Ely at the Unwin Ground on Monday. Picture: Keith Heppell. SPO794385

Chadwick is Ely goal hero

Ely City 1 Mildenhall Tn 0
RIDGEONS LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION

RICHARD Chadwick scored the only goal of the game as Ely made an excellent start to the year with victory over local rivals Mildenhall at the Unwin Ground on Monday.

A fiercely contested match saw little in the way of goalmouth chances as both sides battled hard to get the upper hand.

The first half ended goalless and the second half looked to be going the same way when Nick Impey crossed from the right in the 80th minute and Chadwick headed home as the Robins maintained their unbeaten home record.

Ely fought back from the worst possible start to beat Wisbech 3-1 at home on Boxing Day morning.

The Robins fell behind in the first minute of the match, Kenny Smith the unfortunate man putting through his own goal.

The hosts took a little while to get going, but they were level around the 20-minute mark when Impey smashed home a loose ball.

They went ahead before half time thanks to Luke Parkinson, who ran from deep and slotted away a fine left-footed shot.

Goalkeeper Lee Pacey comfortably dealt with everything in the second period, and Stuart Walker wrapped up the win with 10 minutes remaining when he cashed in on a fumble by the Wisbech goalkeeper.

The Robins are due to return to league action on Saturday when Walsham le Willows will be the visitors to the Unwin Ground, kick-off 3pm.

You go your way: Ely City's Josh Bridgeman, right, in a tussle for the ball with Alex Steed, of Mildenhall on Monday.

SPO 794369

Disappointment for Greens as old rivals take points

Leiston 2
Soham Town Rangers 0
RYMAN LEAGUE, DIVISION ONE NORTH

SOHAM were unable to complete an impressive double over their old foes Leiston as they succumbed 2-0 on Monday.

The Greens ran out 2-1 winners when the teams clashed at Julius Martin Lane back on August Bank Holiday Monday, but their opponents gained revenge second time around.

The teams went into the half-time break all square, although Michael Simpson was close to getting a vital touch on the end of Ben Seymour-Shove's inviting cross.

Dan Cotton tested the hosts' goalkeeper with an accurate free kick, but Dan Bircham was unable to keep one out at the other end as Leiston took the lead.

Simpson put a good chance over the bar as the Greens went close to levelling matters, before the hosts sealed it with a crucial second goal.

Cotton netted a brace as Soham gave their home supporters some festive cheer with a deserved 3-1 win against high-flying AFC Sudbury on Boxing Day.

Cotton scored twice in the first half, one a penalty after a deliberate handball, to give the hosts a healthy 2-0 lead at half time.

Scott Carter then made it 3-0 in the second half as the hosts strengthened their grip on the game.

Sudbury did manage to pull a goal back, but Rangers held on to pick up all three points.

Player/boss Andy Furnell said: "It was a really good win for us. It was a bit of a battle in the end but we stood firm and held on."

On target: Scott Carter, who scored for Soham against Sudbury on Boxing Day.

■ The Greens are due to be in league action on Saturday when Harlow Town are due to visit Julius Martin Lane, kick-off 3pm. Then, on Tuesday, Soham will be involved in the Cambridgeshire Invitation Cup when they entertain Kershaw League, Premier Division champions Lakenheath.

■ Peterborough United have recalled Arron Wickham from his work-experience deal at Soham, sending him out on a similar arrangement to Blue Square South side Bishop's Stortford. The 18-year-midfielder arrived at the Lane at the start of December, along with Posh team-mate Seymour-Shove, and started all four of the Greens' games during the month, with his last appearance being in the Boxing Day victory over AFC Sudbury.

Ely Weekly News

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